Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-178
Wednesday
14 September 1994

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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-178 *14 September 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Secret' Syria-Israel Talks Bring Agreement *[AL-MANAR 12 Sep]* 1
Israel 'Unwilling' To Accept Syrian 'Conditions' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Peres, 'Arafat Agree on 15-Point Joint Declaration *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 1
Jordan, Israel Delegation Heads: Talks 'Successful' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Jordan's al-Mu'ashshir Cited on Tiberias Talks *[Amman Radio]* 2
Jordan Delegates in Tiberias Report 'Progress' *[Amman TV]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Meet With Israel's Peres in Norway *[Jericho VOP]* 3
PFLP-GC Issues Statement on Oslo Agreement Anniversary *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
Mahmud 'Abbas Interviewed on DOP Anniversary *[Jericho VOP]* 4
Palestinian Delegation Defines Stand on ICPD Issues *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Jewish Protests Force PLO Official To Postpone Visit *[AFP]* 5
'Minister' Quray' Reportedly Resigns From PNA *[AL-MANAR 12 Sep]* 5
Quray' Discusses Economic Situation, Priorities *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
Hamas Leader Denies Engaging in Dialogue With PNA *[AL-QUDS 12 Sep]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Top FIS Leaders Released From Prison *[AFP]* 8
Presidency Statement on Release *[Algiers TV]* 8
FIS Official on Release *[London MBC TV]* 8
Further Comments by FIS Official *[Paris International]* 8
FIS's Kebir: 'Positive Yet Insufficient' *[Paris TV Teletext]* 9
Appointment of Envoy to Morocco Announced *[Paris International]* 9

Egypt

Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' Arrives in Cairo 9
Comments on Peace Process *[MENA]* 9
Further Comments on Peace *[AL-RA'Y 14 Sep]* 10
Discusses Arab Reconciliation *[Damascus TV]* 10
Mufti's Term Extended by Two Years *[Cairo Radio]* 11
'Fugitive Terrorist' Shot, Captured in al-Suways *[MENA]* 11

Morocco

Pakistan's Bhutto Meets With Filali, Monarch *[Islamabad TV]* 11
Delegations Sign Agreements *[Rabat Radio]* 11
Bhutto Holds News Conference, Departs *[Rabat TV]* 11
PPS Calls For Sustained Security Efforts *[MAP]* 12

Sudan

Protest Lodged With Egypt Over Demonstrations at ICPD *[Omdurman Radio]* 12
Finance Minister Previews IMF Talks in Washington *[Omdurman Radio]* 12

Western Sahara

Voter Identification Process Viewed *[Algiers Radio]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Secretary General on Regional Issues *[KUNA]* 14

Saudi Arabia

Rights Committee Issues Statement on Arrests *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 12 Sep]* 14
Rights Committee Statement Details 'String of Arrests' *[AFP]* 15

Yemen

YSP's Muqbil on Central Committee Meeting *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Sep]* 15

IRAQ

Tariq 'Aziz Meets More UN Members in New York *[INA]* 17
UN Periodic Review of Sanctions To Begin *[INA]* 17
Official Confers With Yemeni Nasirite Delegation *[INA]* 17
Assembly Speaker Urges Strong Ties With S. Korea *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Official Receives Russian LDP Delegation *[INA]* 17
Blast Kills Intelligence Men; Security Wanes *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 18
Recent Bomb Blasts Cited as Sign of Instability *[AFP]* 18
PUK Members Visit KDP Headquarters *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 18
Saddam Chairs 18th Cabinet Session *[INA]* 18
Ministry To Hold Conference on Role of Mosques *[AL-'IRAQ 1 Sep]* 19
Government Carries Out Amputation Sentences 19
Thief's Hand Cut Off *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 7 Sep]* 19
Deserters' Ears, Thief's Hand Amputated *[AL-THAWRAH 9 Sep]* 19

ISRAEL

Rabin Supports Stationing U.S. Troops on Golan *[MA'ARIV 13 Sep]* 20
Gur: Referendum on Entire Peace Plan With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Savir on Peace Process, Ties With Syria, Jordan *[Paris LE MONDE 13 Sep]* 20
Beilin Comments on Police Role in Haiti *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Rabin, Weizman Receive Greetings From King Husayn *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Netanyahu Says Syria Given Map on Total Withdrawal *[MA'ARIV 14 Sep]* 21
Minister Dubious of Secure Relations With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Labor Party Draft Platform Proposal Rejects Withdrawal *[HA'ARETZ 13 Sep]* 22
Shahal Concedes Increase in Killings Since DOP *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Two PFLP Members Sentenced to Life for Murdering Israeli *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
2d Officer Arrested in 'Radical' Group Investigation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Police Raid Home of Detained al-Rujb Bodyguard *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Sep]* 23
Shahal Orders Additional Police Along Green Line *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Air Force: U.S. Technology Needed After Golan Withdrawal *[MA'ARIV 12 Sep]* 24

JORDAN

King Says Talks With Israel 'Encouraging' *[Amman TV]* 25
Minister Departs for Cairo Arab League Meetings *[Amman TV]* 25
Columnist on Arab Relations, Restoring Kuwait Ties *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Sep]* 26

LEBANON

Buwayz on Peace Talks, Lack of Arab Solidarity *[Beirut Radio]* 27

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Rejects Rabin Golan Withdrawal Proposal *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Ambassador in Cairo on Peace, Other Issues *[AL-SHA'B 9 Sep]* 29
AL-THAWRAH Reiterates Position on Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 30

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Militia Attack in Samangan Province Repulsed *[Kabul Radio]* 32
Dostam Intelligence Chief Reportedly Defects *[Kabul Radio]* 32

India

Editorial Opposes ICO Mission to Kashmir *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 12 Sep]* 32
Editorial Criticizes ICO Resolution on Kashmir *[JANSATTA 12 Sep]* 33
Commentary Accuses Pakistan of Manipulating ICO *[Delhi International]* 33

Iran

President Discusses Participation at ICPD *[IRNA]* 34
Diplomat on Relations With Malaysia *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 3 Sep]* 34
Russian Official Views Tehran Regional Role *[Tehran Radio]* 36
Editorial Disputes Reasons for Ties With U.S. *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 1 Sep]* 36
Newspaper Responds to U.S. Charges on Weapons *[IRNA]* 37
Commentary Rejects Idea To Resume Ties With Egypt *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 1 Sep]* 38
Final Stage of Kheybar-73 Military Exercise Under Way *[Tehran Radio]* 38

Pakistan

Sharif Says Army, ISI Plotted To Sell Heroin *[THE NEWS 13 Sep]* 39
'Strongly Refuted' by Military *[Islamabad Radio]* 40
Allegations Reportedly Analyzed *[THE MUSLIM 14 Sep]* 41
Interior Ministry Condemns Remarks *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
Sharif Denies Newspaper Report on Narcotics *[THE NEWS 14 Sep]* 41
Article Surveys Market for Light Weapons *[THE NATION 13 Sep]* 42

Sri Lanka

LTTE Leader Responds Positively to Talks Proposal *[Colombo International]* 43

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Secret' Syria-Israel Talks Bring Agreement

TA1309184694 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 12 Sep 94 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] AL-MANAR has learned from high-ranking diplomatic sources that intensive Israeli-Syrian meetings were held in Madrid before the Jewish holidays. A secret round of talks was also held between the two sides in Morocco. Moreover, moves by an Arab state have had a positive impact on the Syrian-Israeli track.

These sources say that a draft agreement was discussed many times and modified more than once during these meetings. Agreement in principle has been reached on the clauses of the agreement, which is expected to be announced within two months, after the Syrian and Israeli leaderships finish preparing their own arenas.

These sources revealed the clauses of the Syrian-Israeli agreement as follows:

- Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights will be carried out in two phases and will end after 30 months.
- Israel will begin to dismantle its settlements after the agreement is signed. The dismantling process is to be completed with the end of the Israeli withdrawal.
- The establishment of diplomatic relations between the two sides will be announced within the first year.
- The establishment of a secure area on both sides of the border will be announced.
- The Syrian heights will be demilitarized.
- U.S. forces will be deployed on the Golan.

These sources add that Israel has agreed to give Syria privileges in Lebanon provided Damascus undertakes to prevent any armed operations against Israel from Lebanese territory. In return, Israeli forces will withdraw from south Lebanon, and this region will be declared a demilitarized area.

The same sources point out that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make another trip to the region at the end of September to prepare a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, which will be preceded by a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Israel 'Unwilling' To Accept Syrian 'Conditions'

TA1409064994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Syria has not rejected outright the latest proposal by Prime Minister Rabin but has placed conditions that Israel is unwilling to accept. This is according to a Qol Yisra'el reporter who has learned that the Syrians are demanding that the withdrawal period from the Golan be completed in two years. The Syrians are also said to be demanding that in the first stage, Israeli forces withdraw not only from Majdal Shams but also from a Jewish settlement on the Golan.

One of the main issues of contention remains the question of normalization. According to the Qol Yisra'el reporter, the Syrians are ready for normalization but only at the end of the withdrawal; and even then they are talking only about diplomatic relations and not commercial relations or open borders. The two sides are also in disagreement over the question of the final border and water resources.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 14 September adds that "Israel is demanding a Syrian commitment not to divert the water sources on the Golan Heights. As for Lebanon, Syria is demanding an Israeli declaration recognizing Syria's interests in Lebanon. Nevertheless, the largest gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions pertains to the final withdrawal lines. Syria is demanding an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 border lines in order to retain areas such as al-Hammah and the sources of the Baniyas. Israel insists that the border lines match those decided upon in the cease fire agreements, to preclude any transfer of these sites to Syria." The report notes that "sources in Jerusalem expressed the assessment that any effort to bridge the gaps could only be made at a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. However, the Syrians still refuse to hold such a meeting. Moreover, there is still no indication that they are even willing to hold a meeting between both countries' foreign ministers. As for the proposal that al-Asad and Rabin hold a joint summit meeting together with additional Arab leaders, it has been learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who delivered the proposal, received the curt reply that al-Asad still does not believe the Israelis. This, however, was several weeks before al-Asad's speech to the Syrian parliament in which he spoke about Syria's strategic decision to reach peace. Al-Asad, Prime Minister Rabin noted, did not mention normalization in his speech and that was the problem."]

Peres, 'Arafat Agree on 15-Point Joint Declaration

TA1309185594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Video report by Oslo correspondent Yig'al Rom]

[Excerpts] The meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Oslo this evening to mark the first anniversary of the Oslo agreement was used to settle the crisis over the transfer of funds to East Jerusalem. After meeting for over five hours, the two men agreed on a 15-point joint declaration, the main point being an agreement to no longer raise disputed issues with the donor countries. Our correspondent Yig'al Rom reports from Oslo:

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[Begin recording] [Rom] [passage omitted] The talks between 'Arafat and Peres began in a comfortable, albeit assertive, atmosphere and continued almost until the beginning of the festivities. The main bone of contention was Israel's refusal to allow the Palestinians to invest the funds the donor countries give to the Palestinian self-rule in East Jerusalem as well. This obstacle has now been removed, and the following remarks by Peres apply, therefore, to the next crisis.

[Peres] It would be unwise on my part to say how, but I can definitely tell you that there will be no concessions on the issue of Jerusalem.

[Rom] What does that mean?

[Peres] With regard to Jerusalem, it should be noted that the donor countries donated funds to Gaza and to Jericho. The organization dealing with the collection of the funds from the donors belongs to the Palestinian Authority, and the latter has no status whatsoever in Jerusalem. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Jordan, Israel Delegation Heads: Talks 'Successful'

TA1309165594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Israeli and Jordanian delegations to the peace talks have agreed on a basic framework for a master plan on developing the Jordan Rift Valley. The United States is a partner to the plan. Our correspondent, Arye Gus, reports that within that framework, it was decided to begin looking into the possibility of digging a canal between the Dead Sea and Red Sea.

Gus reports that the heads of the two delegations said after the current round of talks that the deliberations in all fields—including borders, defense, and water—were most successful. Gus also notes that Treasury Budget Department Director David Brodet and Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the West Bank Civil Administration, joined the talks today. They briefed the Jordanian delegation on the talks between Finance Minister Shohat and Yasir 'Arafat.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 13 September, in a report by Avi Lipschitz, adds that the two delegations also agreed on "joint marketing abroad of holiday packages to Israel and Jordan." In the economic field, they agreed "on a series of meetings between businessmen from both countries, who will study the possibility of cooperation in various fields, such as pharmaceuticals and mining." The two sides also agreed on "cooperation between the Navies of the two countries in the Gulf of Elat." The report says "the disappointment of this round" was the water committee, where "both sides are inflexible and the subject is complex. The Jordanian spokesman said no progress was made on the issue and that it is doubtful whether any will be made soon."]

Jordan's al-Mu'ashshir Cited on Tiberias Talks

JN1309170994 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep p94

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli delegations have concluded another round of peace talks in Tiberias in northern Israel. The two sides discussed the issues of water, boundaries, environment, energy, security, tourism, civil aviation, and development of the Jordan Rift Valley.

The spokesman of the Jordanian delegation, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, said Jordan's position on the border issue was clear, stressing the kingdom's insistence on full sovereignty over all Jordanian territory occupied by Israel. He told reporters that Jordan and Israel agreed to open a new crossing point at the al-Shaykh Husayn Bridge, 35 km south of al-'Adasiyah, but had not defined when to open it.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: The Jordan Rift Valley and Development Committee would meet with the American side to put final touches to a common working draft, which he hoped would be sealed by the end of the month.

[Begin recording] [Al-Mu'ashshir] Yes, we feel the negotiations are going at a good pace. We have been able... [changes thought] We will hopefully be able at the end of this round to agree on joint terms of reference for the development of the Jordan Valley. It is expected that before the end, before today's, before the end of today's round, that we will be able to agree on the joint terms of reference. Also on the subject of exports to the West Bank, the Israeli side has informed us of its total acceptance now of the $30 million figure; meaning that, the Palestinian side can now, anybody willing from the Palestinian side, can now import goods and commodities from Jordan, and will have the full cooperation of the Israeli authorities to do so. The civil aviation negotiations are still under way on maybe trying a tentative route to be tried by both sides. But, negotiations are still under way. And if there are any results, then they will be announced before today's end. No, it is not true that there is a deadlock. As I have stated before, these are long negotiations on a very sensitive issue. We do not expect quick progress on such an issue. But, the fact that results are not announced so far does not mean that there is a deadlock. It just means that this is, as I have said, a difficult issue that needs to be negotiated, and needs more time before we can arrive at a successful result. We are still very hopeful that negotiations on this issue, and on other issues, are proceeding in a satisfactory manner, and there are no deadlocks here. There is no change in the Jordanian position. Our position on water is very clear. Before we are able to talk about increasing the water supply for both sides, there has to be allocations for both sides in the al-Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers. There has to be agreed allocations for both sides. We are still arguing this point. Of course, we are also very interested in talking about increasing the total water supply for both countries and for the region. But this cannot be done in isolation of reallocating the existing water supply among the two countries. [end recording]

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Jordan Delegates in Tiberias Report 'Progress'

JN1309190294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, which lasted two days in Tiberias, have been concluded. More details are contained in the dispatch of our correspondent [Na'il al-Hurut]:

[Begin recording] [Al-Hurut] During the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations held in Bet Guvrin on the coast of Lake Tiberias, an agreement was reached in principle on a draft action plan for the development of the Jordan Valley in cooperation with an authorized U.S. committee. In a related development, a responsible source close to the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations has stated that the two sides have not thus far reached agreement on issues related to the water issue. Both sides have focused in the talks on the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. Technical committees have continued their work to address this issue, and other issues listed on the agenda.

[Chief Jordanian delegate Fayiz al-Tarawinah] Many positive results have been reached. Thorough talks have been held by all committees, be they bilateral or trilateral committees. Even with regard to the most important issues; namely, the basic issues pertaining to sovereignty, water resources, boundaries, territory, and security, progress has been made. The gaps between both sides' positions on many technical issues that we have addressed have been narrowed. There might be nothing to announce, but, I can say that progress has been made.

[Al-Hurut] Dr. Mundhir Haddadin [member of the Jordanian delegation]: If you please, has there been any agreement reached? Has the technical committee charged with negotiating water issues reached any specific agreement with the Israeli side?

[Haddadin] Most of the time, we have been discussing the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. We have continued our efforts to reach agreement. The chances for such an agreement are good. The timeframe required for this might be shorter than our expectations in this regard. We expect to get close to one another's position in the future.

[Jordanian spokesman at talks Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir] There will be a ready comprehensive action plan for developing the Jordan Valley. The Jordanian and Israeli sides, in cooperation with the U.S. side, have taken part in drafting this plan. As you know, we announced yesterday that we will open a border crossing point in the north. This point has not thus far been opened. We hope that it will be opened in the next two months. The point will be at the site of the former al-Shaykh Husayn Bridge in the north, 35 km south of al-'Adasiyah. Efforts to construct this border crossing point will be started although no date has thus far been set for opening it, or even for naming it.

[Al-Hurut] Dr. al-Mu'ashshir: With regard to the work of the border committee, news reports have said that the technical committee charged with demarcating the borders completed its work yesterday, and that it is currently meeting to evaluate this issue. Another question concerns the fact that the Jordanian side has set forth a new concept regarding the border issue, and that it is awaiting an Israeli response to this during today's meetings. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The technical committees have been working on the border issue since the next [as heard] round of talks. There is a long way ahead. The technical committee cannot complete this work in a short time. Hence, its meetings are continuous. The technical committee came today after working on site to review what has been accomplished thus far. Nonetheless, this technical affair has not thus far been accomplished in any way whatsoever. As for the Jordanian side, and the conceptions it has set forth in the negotiations, I do not want to delve into the details of what is being presented in the negotiations. I can only say that the Jordanian position on the border issue is clear and principled. It is determined to restore Jordanian sovereignty over all the Jordanian territory occupied by Israel. Therefore, any position that Jordan takes in this regard is based on this premise. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Meet With Israel's Peres in Norway

JN1309125094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland last night for Norway to participate in celebrations marking the anniversary of the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. 'Arafat will also meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo in preparation for the meetings that will be held among the donor countries with the participation of a Palestinian delegation led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, and an Israeli delegation led by Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The donor countries' meeting will discuss the size of donations and ways of transferring the international aid to the Palestinian Authority to implement development and services projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PFLP-GC Issues Statement on Oslo Agreement Anniversary

JN1409102694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] issued the following statement on the first anniversary of the treasonous Oslo agreement:

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In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Masses of our nation, people of martyrs: One year has passed since the treasonous Oslo agreement was signed and since the crime was perpetrated on the American White House's lawn on 13 September. This crime paved the way for subsequent crimes in Paris and Cairo, where the executive plan of the treacherous Oslo agreement was signed.

During the past year, much has been revealed about the treacherous agreement and its annexes and the dimension of the crime perpetrated by the capitulators against our people and nation. It was clear right from the beginning that what 'Arafat has achieved behind the scenes in Oslo, Paris, and Cairo was nothing short of a contract of complete surrender to the enemy and a security agreement targeting the intifadah and aimed at protecting the Zionist entity, legalizing its presence, and ensuring stability for its settlers and worldwide immigrants. This was evident in the following:

1. The agreement has right from the beginning blessed the partitioning of the Palestinian territory, which the Zionists have been seeking, and relinquished the right to the territorial integrity of the lands occupied in 1967. It has also embodied a Zionist policy seeking to fragment the unity of the Palestinian people.

2. The agreement consecrated the Judaization of Jerusalem and gave the Zionists a good chance to continue this process of Judaization.

3. It consecrated the Israeli settlement policy, which turned our cities and villages in the territories occupied in 1967 into isolated islands separated by settlements.

4. It rescinded the right of return for millions of Palestinian refugees, and made the return of the displaced subject to the will and terms of the Zionist enemy.

5. At the pan-Arab level, the agreement paved the way for those who wish to conclude agreements with the enemy under the pretext that the question of Palestine was resolved. Therefore, we witnessed the Washington Declaration between Jordan and the Zionist entity and the normalization drive, whose moves are continuing.

Within months of the implementation of the treacherous agreement it became clear that:

1. The agreement is merely a security agreement targeting the intifadah and the struggling forces as is obvious in the arrests carried out by 'Arafat's authority against the mujahidin and strugglers and its absolute commitment to ensuring the security of the Zionist settlers.

2. The agreement is a blessing of the Zionist occupation even in the areas called self-rule areas.

3. What was said about economic prosperity and a national economic structure was a mere illusion or deception employed by the agreement owners in a bid to gain support for their capitulation.

4. The agreement seeks to introduce a new system in the Arab world—one that drops Arabism and pan-Arab relations in favor of a Middle Eastern bloc which makes the Zionist entity part of the region.

What has been unveiled about the dangers inherent in the treacherous agreement mandates serious consideration in order to draw up an active plan of confrontation to foil its goals. We will not dwell on the size of these dangers, which have become clear to all. In short, the agreement has abrogated our people's right to their homeland. This serves as reason for activating a plan of struggle that would rehabilitate national rights by stepping up our legitimate struggle. It has become clear that this agreement is fragile and that our people categorically reject it. This behooves the struggling vanguards of this people, represented in the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces, to take a qualitative step in confronting the policy of capitulation, depending on the struggling masses and the inalienable rights of our people—rights which are intended to be squandered by continuing the implementation of the ominous agreement.

It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command

Mahmud 'Abbas Interviewed on DOP Anniversary

JN1309111194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1840 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, in al-Tayyibah, by unidentified correspondent in the studio—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Good evening.

['Abbas] Welcome.

[Correspondent] Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], congratulations on your return to the homeland.

['Abbas] God bless you.

[Correspondent] You are now in al-Tayyibah city.

['Abbas] Yes.

[Correspondent] Abu-Mazin, tomorrow is the first annual anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] in Oslo. How do you evaluate the DOP one year after its endorsement?

['Abbas] I didn't hear you well, but I gather that you are talking about assessing the situation between the signing and the implementation of the DOP. Well, the most important thing this year is that the agreement has not remained just ink on paper. The implementation has started. This is the important thing. We are thus optimistic that the rest of the issues on the agenda of the agreement will be discussed and implemented gradually.

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[Correspondent] Abu-Mazin, there have been reports recently that you have quit politics. How true is this?

['Abbas] I am still an elected member of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee so I don't think I have quit politics.

[Correspondent] Why do you not participate in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]?

['Abbas] Regarding the question of the PNA, I do not find myself in it at present, but I have no specific objections to the PNA or its members.

[Correspondent] Are you going to participate in tomorrow's celebrations on the annual anniversary of the Oslo agreement?

['Abbas] No. Tomorrow, I will be somewhere else.

[Correspondent] Israel is creating obstacles to the implementation of the DOP and is still procrastinating. What is the alternative and what can be done to counter this Israeli conduct?

['Abbas] There is no alternative to the continuation of negotiations and the attempt to continue to implement the agreement. We should continue to exert pressure to implement the clauses of the agreement. Even if it delayed a bit, it is better than obstructing the whole process.

[Correspondent] The Israeli organization Betzelem [Israeli human rights group] issued a report today saying that the Israeli measures in the occupied territories have not changed—in fact, they have increased—after the signing of the agreement. What is your comment?

['Abbas] This is very regrettable. One year after signing the agreement, and some months since its implementation, it is regrettable to see such practices. These practices should be reversed to achieve coexistence between the two peoples.

[Correspondent] Palestinian elections will be held in November. Are you going to run for elections?

['Abbas] I do not think the elections will be held in November because they need an Israeli-Palestinian agreement first. However, when the time comes for nomination, we will see what happens.

[Correspondent] Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee. Thank you.

['Abbas] You are welcome.

Palestinian Delegation Defines Stand on ICPD Issues

JN1309201794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Palestinian Forum for Nongovernmental Organizations, which is participating in the International Conference on Development and Population [ICPD] that has been convening in Cairo since 5 September and which will end its meetings today, issued a press statement which says: One cannot speak of a Palestinian population policy or of future development possibilities so long as Israeli settlements are not removed. These settlements obstruct the implementation of a comprehensive development policy in the occupied territories.

The press statement says: The perpetuation of the present situation will impede the merging of the Palestinian society with the international community. The press statement emphasizes the importance of incorporating population policies in all development activities to secure an increase in the income level and improve the Palestinians standard of living.

The statement adds that the Palestinian nongovernmental organizations believe in and abide by the ICPD resolutions through the Palestinian paper on healthy reproduction, the health of women, equality, and development.

Jewish Protests Force PLO Official To Postpone Visit

NC1309134894 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Zefat, Israel, Sept 13 (AFP)—Mahmud 'Abbas, the PLO official who signed the autonomy accord exactly a year ago, cancelled a planned visit to his ancestral home in the town of Zefat on Tuesday [13 September] amid Jewish protests, state radio said.

Zefat town councillors declared 'Abbas, known as Abu-Mazin, a "terrorist ... and persona non grata," leading hundreds in demonstrations against the visit.

"We don't want you, go back," shouted protesters carrying photographs of victims of PLO "terror."

'Abbas, who arrived in the self-rule area of Jericho last Friday after almost 50 years in exile, went instead to Haifa, a mixed Israeli and Arab city in northern Israel, where he was to meet the mayor, Avharam Mitzna.

Israeli police chief Assaf Hefetz advised 'Abbas, who signed the Declaration of Principles in Washington on 13 September 1993, not to go to Zefat for the time being, the Israeli news agency ITIM reported.

'Abbas was born in Zefat, Galilee, in 1933, and left ahead of the creation of Israel in 1948. His family home is today a branch of Israel's right-wing opposition party Likud.

'Minister' Quray' Reportedly Resigns From PNA

TA1309190094 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 12 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned from a senior Palestinian source that Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', minister of economy and commerce in the Palestinian

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National Authority [PNA] , has submitted his resignation to President Yasir 'Arafat. It has been noted that Quray' did not attend the PNA's weekly meeting two days ago. He also did not participate in the Washington and Paris meetings of the donor countries.

It is worth noting that Abu-'Ala' is a member of the Fatah Central Committee and one of the architects of the Oslo agreement. He took part in the talks that resulted in this agreement.

President 'Arafat has Quray's resignation, but has not dealt with it yet. The Palestinian source indicated that the resignation will not be accepted; rather, its causes will be addressed.

Quray' Discusses Economic Situation, Priorities

JN1309201194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', alias Abu'-Ala', official in charge of the economic portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority, by economic affairs correspondent Rajih Qaddur; from the "With the Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Qaddur] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', good evening.

[Quray'] Good evening to you.

[Qaddur] Mr. Abu-'Ala': Now that one year has passed since the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles [DOP], how would you sum up the economic situation until now?

[Quray'] No doubt about it, the economic situation is difficult. A year has passed since the signing of the DOP. There are expectations and I am glad that these expectations are neither high nor unreal. Our people are objective and have objective expectations. Despite this, nothing at all has been achieved on the ground in the economic field. International aid did not arrive as expected.

As we have said many times throughout the past year, the Palestinian administration has not taken steps that will make the citizen feel that there has been a serious change in the economic field. Hence, the economic situation is difficult and portends a real danger if an initiative is not taken to expeditiously deal with this situation and to make the citizens feel that serious changes have begun on the ground.

[Qaddur] What are the most important economic issues that you had hoped would have been achieved but which have not been completed, as yet, in view of the difficulties you have mentioned?

[Quray'] The most important thing I hoped for was to make room for the Palestinian private sector to practice its work with absolute freedom based on laws and regulations. However, neither the laws and regulations are being respected nor is the private sector able to carry out its work in complete freedom. I am afraid that the private sector will desist from investing in occupied Palestine.

[Qaddur] [Words indistinct] economic action also needs a structure, mechanism, and appropriate cadres. Do you think the Palestinians achieved what is required at this level?

[Quray'] We are still at the preparation stage. These issues dealing with regulations, laws, programs, and plans should have been adopted already and in our hands. There are some issues that have been prepared but not adopted and some other issues remain as ideas and have not yet been discussed. Hence, nothing has been achieved on the structural level, except within the framework of forming the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction [PECDAR]. Even this council, which is the most important Palestinian institution formed so far, is unable to adequately operate in view of the conflicting areas of responsibilities.

[Qaddur] The situation seems difficult. However, you must have aspirations for the future. What do you believe are the most pressing economic issues which will receive your special attention and treatment?

[Quray'] Actually, what is important to me is to create an infrastructure that encourages the private sector and helps investment. This infrastructure includes electricity, water, communications, transportation, roads, sewage, and other services. Moreover, it is important to provide the human factor which can help the private sector, such as secretaries, employees, cadres as well as technological and technical know how. All these factors will help the private sector. Our priority is to create projects that will solve the unemployment problem. We have a very high rate of unemployment, exceeding 54 percent of the work force. We need to create employment opportunities. This is a strenuous task. We must know what projects there are in industry, agriculture, housing, communications, transportation and other fields. The basic priority is to create employment opportunities for workers.

[Qaddur] Mr. Ahmad Quray'. Thank you very much.

[Quray'] Thank you Rajih.

Hamas Leader Denies Engaging in Dialogue With PNA

TA1309192294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Sep 94 pp 1, 22

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] in the Gaza Strip, has denied reports of a dialogue between the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and Hamas. Al-Zahhar said: "We are not engaged in any dialogue with

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the PNA except regarding daily affairs. There is absolutely no dialogue between us on political matters."

As an example, al-Zahhar mentioned the 8 September meeting the Islamic University in Gaza held with PNA leader Yasir 'Arafat. He said: "This was not a political dialogue but a meeting to solve the university's problems."

Al-Zahhar criticized the PNA's announcement about holding elections at the beginning of November and said: "It is impossible for any authority to prepare for elections within two months. This announcement seeks only to pressure Israel, as the PNA has no lists of those who are eligible to participate in the elections."

Al-Zahhar stressed that Hamas will not be a party to these elections and said that the position of Hamas on the elections will not change, just as its political stance will not change.

Al-Zahhar denied a deterioration in Hamas' relations with the Palestinian opposition parties in Gaza. He said Hamas' failure to participate in the news conference held in Gaza before noon yesterday was for technical reasons.

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Algeria

Top FIS Leaders Released From Prison

NC1309200694 Paris AFP in English 1913 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 13 (AFP)—The president and vice president of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria were released from jail but placed under house arrest, an official statement said late Tuesday.

Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj were transferred from the Blida military prison south of Algiers to "another place of residence," the statement added.

Three other senior FIS officials, Noureddine Chigara, Omar Abdelkader and Kamal Guemmazim, were freed.

Madani and Belhadj were jailed in July 1992 for attacks against state security.

The outlawed FIS has spearheaded a Muslim fundamentalist insurgency against Algeria's military-backed government since January 1992, when the army cancelled the second round of general elections the then-legal FIS was poised to win.

The announcement of the multiple release comes amid growing signs of an impending rapprochement between FIS and the government in an attempt to put an end to the violence that has cost thousands of lives.

Presidency Statement on Release

LD1309200094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] A statement from the state presidency today said: The groundwork that emanated from the national conference that was held in January 1994 defined the aims of the transitional stage and adopted dialogue as one of the fundamental ways to embody these aims. Head of state Liamine Zeroual defined, through his efforts aimed at promoting this dialogue, the framework of this dialogue, its aims, and the constant national principles that impose their necessity on everyone in order to reach the solution that is awaited by the Algerian people.

On 23 August 1994, [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, leader] Mr. Abassi Madani took the initiative to address a letter to the head of state. Contacts and letters that followed this initiative enabled the highlighting of the will of the two leaders of the dissolved party to work toward putting an end to the bloodshed and to contributing through peaceful means toward finding a final solution to the crisis through which the country is passing.

Out of his eagerness to use all means that may bring an end to violence and bloodshed and to restore security and establish stability in the framework of legality, the head of state has decided to transfer Messrs. Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, the leaders of the dissolved party, from Blida to another residence, with the aim of allowing them to contribute to the embodiment of the aforementioned aims. It has also been decided to release Messrs. Noureddine Chigara, Abdelkader Amar, and Kamel Guemazi for this same purpose.

FIS Official on Release

NC1309213894 London MBC Television in Arabic 2105 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Interview with Anwar Haddam, head of the FIS parliamentary mission, in Washington, by Nidal Qabalan, in London—live]

[Text] [Qabalan] Can you confirm that Abassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, and the other three Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders have been released?

[Haddam] We are now sure that the three brothers, Abdelkader Chiqara, Abdelkader Omar have been released [as heard] and that Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj have been transferred to a place where they can resume their activity.

[Qabalan] What about Kamel Guemazi?

[Haddam] This also applies to Guemazi.

[Qabalan] Does this mean that the FIS will return to political dialogue instead of violence as a means to end the conflict?

[Haddam] The FIS and the Mujahidin never used violence. The FIS will remain a political party. We hope this will be the first step toward ending the conflict in Algeria.

[Qabalan] If this is the first step, what is the next step, in your opinion?

[Haddam] As demanded by Shaykh Abassi Madani's letter, we, in the name of the parliamentary session, and, consequently, in the name of the people elected by the FIS, support the demands of Shaykh Madani, namely, allowing them to join and meet with FIS leaders inside and outside Algeria and with mujahidin leaders so that we can come up with an integrated plan to end this crisis.

[Qabalan] Many people believe this is a gesture of goodwill by the Algerian president. How will you react to it?

[Haddam] We hope General Zeroual and those around him will take this chance and accept the conditions set out by Dr. Madani, which we fully support.

[Qabalan] Thank you.

[Haddam] You are welcome.

Further Comments by FIS Official

LD1409102594 Paris Radio France International in French 0732 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Our guest is Anwar Haddam, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] representative in Washington.

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I have just told you that, in Algeria, the two founding members of the FIS, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, left Blida prison last night. They are under house arrest, but they are free to receive guests. As for the three other FIS leaders who were detained with them, they have been released. This is an important gesture on the part of the Algerian Government with a view to finding a political solution to the Algerian crisis.

Anwar Haddam gave his reaction to Farida Ayari from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Haddam] We believe that this may be a first step toward the commitment of General Zeroual and his entourage to accept the conditions set by Dr. Abassi as given in his 23 August letter. We hope that this will be a positive first step.

[Ayari] A first step mainly toward a truce and civilian peace. Is that right?

[Haddam] A first step toward serious negotiations. Dr. Abassi Madani suggested in his letter...[Haddam pauses] He was clear. If he feels that there is goodwill on the part of Gen Zeroual and his entourage—which we are hoping for—Dr. Abassi Madani said he wants to call for a cease-fire for the freedom fighters so that there will be a climate for serious negotiations.

[Ayari] We have just heard that Madani and Belhadj are under house arrest in a state residence in Blida region. However, the government pointed out that they will be free to have contacts with all the people they want to receive. Do you think that this is enough to call on the various armed groups to lay down their weapons?

[Haddam] Dr. Abassi Madani was clear. He reiterated in his 26 [date as heard] August letter and in his 6 September letter that it is necessary for the FIS historic leaders, that is, Dr. Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, to be able to have contacts with FIS leaders inside the country and abroad, as well as with the leaders of the Mujahedin, so that there could be a wider proposal for negotiations. He will then be able to call for a cease-fire.

[Ayari] The question is now whether Mr. Madani still enjoys enough influence, both on the Armed Islamic Group and on the Islamic Salvation Army.

[Haddam] This is beside the point. The question is whether Gen Zeroual and his entourage will really be able to influence the other generals who are against any negotiations, so that we can return to the electoral process. This is the key issue. We hope that he will be able to keep his promises. As for us, we are certain that the mojahedin, the freedom fighters, are here to defend the interests of the Algerian people, they are here so that there can be...[Haddam pauses] So that the Algerian people can have the right to choose their political authorities freely. If these conditions are met, we are certain that they will accept Dr. Abassi Madani's proposals. It remains to be seen whether the military are ready to accept this.

[Ayari] Yes, but it is nevertheless a fact that the Armed Islamic Group [AIG] is much more radical and, for the time being, it has not shown any sign that it was ready to respect a truce. You yourself are close to the AIG. Are you in a position to tell us whether the AIG is going to agree to play the dialogue game?

[Haddam] Unfortunately, we have always seen that the Algerian cause was not considered as a just cause by the Western countries. Our brothers, the mojahedin, have never been allowed to have their own official spokesmen so I cannot comment on their behalf and all I can say is that the image which has been given of our mojahedin brothers is wrong and I cannot speak on their behalf. What is for certain is that they are there to support the return to the choice of the people, that is, to support the program of the Islamic Salvation Front.

[Ayari] Are you going to try and get in touch with Mr. Madani or Mr. Belhadj?

[Haddam] We are at the disposal of the FIS leadership, of the National Committee [words indistinct] the interest of the country, and of course of the historic leaders, Dr. Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. We shall depend on them. We are ready. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was Anwar Haddam, the FIS representative in Washington. He was interviewed on the telephone by Farida Ayari.

FIS's Kebir: 'Positive Yet Insufficient'

LD1409102894 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 0623 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] "We are pleased with the release of some of our leaders: we see this as a positive yet insufficient stage." This is what Rabah Kebir, the president of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] abroad, said on Tuesday night.

Kebir believes that "all FIS leaders must now be released"—they are being detained in Algeria—before negotiations with the Algerian authorities can start. Other FIS members have talked of "a good start".

Appointment of Envoy to Morocco Announced

LD1309191894 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] There is perhaps some relaxation of tension in Algerian- Moroccan relations. The Algerian Foreign Ministry has announced the appointment of Belaid Mohammed Lakhdar as Algeria's extraordinary ambassador to Morocco. For the last six months a charge d'affaires has represented Algiers in Rabat.

Egypt

Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' Arrives in Cairo

Comments on Peace Process

NC1309152794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit

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to Egypt during which he will head the Syrian delegation to the Arab foreign ministers' 102d session scheduled to begin tomorrow. In an arrival statement at Cairo Airport, he said that Syria has a view of how to safeguard the Arab nation's interests and emphasize the topics on the agenda, primarily the peace process and restoration of Arab solidarity.

On the Syrian-Israeli track in the peace process, al-Shar' said: We hope that the peace process will make progress on the foundations laid for it. He pointed out that the Israeli party, which welcomed President al-Asad's speech and the seriousness it demonstrated for establishing a fair and comprehensive peace in the region, must give an immediate response to the principles outlined in the speech and not be content with expressing satisfaction. He noted that if the Israeli side does this, the peace process may move forward.

On Arab reconciliation, al-Shar' said that Syria's views stem from the need to make a serious and objective review of the disruption that occurred in the Arab homeland, to rectify the Arab situation within an Arab framework, and acknowledge the mistakes made by certain parties so that we can move to a serious stage in Arab relations based on candor. It remains for the party that caused the Gulf crisis to do what is required of it as an overture to rectifying the massive wrong it did.

Responding to a question on the opening of liaison offices in Tel Aviv by certain Arab countries before achieving progress in the peace process, al-Shar' said: We believe that the peace process must proceed in tandem so that Israel may not obtain free gains without offering anything in return. He noted that there will be no substantial change in the issue of the Arab boycott during the Arab foreign ministers meetings.

Further Comments on Peace

JN1409101094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Sep 94 pp 1, 21

[Report by Lima Nabil]

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed the hope that all concerned parties will be able to agree on a final peace formula before the end of the year.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Musa said that Egypt will continue its role in the peace process in accordance with its principles. He also spoke about the importance of the Syrian role, saying that a lasting solution cannot be achieved without the Syrian track, and that this track should be reactivated quickly.

Musa expressed Egypt's full support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks and the recent peace agreement. He said: As long as Jordan has opted for this course, it has Egypt's full support.

On the reactivation of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee, Musa said that it will resume its meetings soon.

Musa spoke about obstacles on the Palestinian-Israeli track, stressing the need to achieve progress on this track soon, or otherwise, negative effects will begin to emerge.

Musa expressed happiness with the success of the International Conference on Development and Population, which concluded its meetings in Cairo yesterday. He said that it was a free forum in which all states could exchange views and reach a compromise solution to development issues.

Discusses Arab Reconciliation

JN1309191494 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo this afternoon to attend the Arab League Council's 103d session, which will begin tomorrow morning, Wednesday, at the Arab League General Secretariat. The meeting is being held at the foreign ministers level.

The foreign minister replied to questions by the press at Cairo International Airport. Commenting on Syria's view of the topics listed on the Arab League Council's agenda, al-Shar' said that Syria approaches the topics from the angle of safeguarding the Arab nation's interests and rights, with an emphasis on ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, the invigoration of joint Arab action, the restoration of Arab solidarity, and all that will help in redressing the course of Arab relations.

On Israel's welcoming His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's speech at the Syrian People's Assembly, Faruq al-Shar' said he hopes that the peace process will make progress on the foundations laid for it. He added that the Israeli side must also respond to the principles outlined in his excellency the president's speech on the peace requirements, specifically a complete withdrawal and not be content with expressing satisfaction.

On whether Syria has any ideas on how to reactivate Arab reconciliation efforts, the foreign minister said that Syria's view stems from the need to seriously and objectively review the disruption that occurred in the Arab state of affairs. He said that one must not indefinitely pause at what took place as if it is impossible to rectify the Arab state of affairs.

Al-Shar' added: The rectification of the Arab state of affairs should take place within an Arab framework where there will be an admission of the mistakes committed by some Arab parties. Al-Shar' emphasized that this will help all to move to a serious stage of intra-Arab relations based on candor and self-criticism and address the future on firm bases and solid Arab commitments.

The foreign minister explained that the party that caused the Gulf crisis should abide by the resolutions it is required to implement as a condition for rectifying the massive wrong done to the Arab situation.

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In reply to a question on endeavors by some Arab countries to open liaison offices in Israel and end the boycott, the foreign minister said: We, in Syria, believe that it is impermissible for Israel to gain gratuitous benefits without offering what it is required to offer to the Arab side. He added that the steps some Arabs have taken in this direction are premature and do not serve the Arab stand in the peace process. Al-Shar' affirmed that the Arab boycott is part of the state of war and the occupation and it should be tackled within the framework of terminating the Israeli occupation and achieving peace, and not within any other framework.

Mufti's Term Extended by Two Years

NC1309205694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree extending the tenure of Dr. Muhammad Sayyid 'Atiyah Tantawi as mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt for two more years beginning 28 October 1994.

'Fugitive Terrorist' Shot, Captured in al-Suways

NC1309151094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1344 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—The state security intelligence services have captured fugitive terrorist Yasir Naji Muhammad Hijazi in the al-Sadat region in al-Suways City. This was part of the Interior Ministry's plan to capture fugitive terrorists.

An official security source said that while state security intelligence men were arresting the terrorist, he tried to attack them with a sharp tool he had in his possession. The force had to react, and the terrorist was shot in the abdomen and was taken to al-Suways Hospital.

It was discovered that terrorist Yasir Naji Hijazi is one of the defendants in Case No. 235/94 High State Security (bank bombings). The prosecution office has been notified to begin investigations.

Morocco

Pakistan's Bhutto Meets With Filali, Monarch

BK1309152694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The formal talks between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the Moroccan prime minister, Abdellatif Filali, were held in Rabat today which discussed wide-ranging international and bilateral issues with special reference to the situation in the occupied Kashmir, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Middle East peace process. The two leaders underlined the need of joint action by Pakistan and Morocco to promote unity and solidarity of the Islamic ummah [community] and collectively address the problems which are confronted to the ummah.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto apprised her Moroccan counterpart about the situation in the occupied Kashmir and the massive indigenous uprising of the people of Kashmir, who are waging a heroic struggle for their right of self-determination as recognized by the United Nations. She thanked for Morocco's support for Kashmiri people.

Mr. Abdellatif Filali paid tributes to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for her deep commitment to the cause of democracy and human rights and her government's efforts for bringing positive changes in the socioeconomic structure.

PTV representative Abdul Khalid Sargana reports from Rabat that there was a common perception between the two leaders on various issues which came up for discussion.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called on King Hassan II of Morocco in Fez and held in-depth talks on regional and international issues. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto briefed King Hassan about the Kashmir issue and expressed her appreciation of the Moroccan support for the cause of the Kashmiri people. The two sides discussed the seventh extraordinary meeting of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers held in Islamabad recently and the role it played in forging greater unity and better cooperation among Islamic countries. They also discussed larger cooperation in the ICO context and explored various prospects of cooperation among Islamic countries. The two sides considered ways and means to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Delegations Sign Agreements

LD1309150994 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, held tete-a-tete talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Rabat this morning. Following the talks, Filali and the Pakistani prime minister chaired an extended working session that included members of the two countries' delegations. [passage omitted]

During this extended session, the two sides studied cooperation fields between the two countries and means of expanding and developing them. At the end of these talks, a new trade agreement was signed aimed at consolidating trade exchange between the two countries. [passage omitted] A protocol agreement to implement the cultural-scientific agreement between the two countries for the period 1995-98 was also signed. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Holds News Conference, Departs

LD1309221494 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Excerpt] At the end of her official visit to Morocco, during which she was received by His Majesty King

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Hassan II and which was crowned by the signing of a number of agreements to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in various fields, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani prime minister, held a news conference in which she touched upon a number of issues and expressed her satisfaction at the results of her visit to Morocco.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mrs. Benazir Bhutto has expressed her satisfaction at the talks she has had with his majesty the king, which dealt with a number of issues of mutual interest. She pointed out that she had extended an invitation to his majesty the king to pay a visit to Pakistan in order to give a further impetus to Moroccan-Pakistani relations.

After recalling Moroccan support for Pakistan with respect to the Kashmir issue, she expressed her hope that a solution would be found to the question of the Moroccan Sahara on the basis of Morocco's desire to hold a referendum under the auspices of the United Nations Organization.

The prime minister of Pakistan hailed the economic achievements accomplished by Morocco and expressed the desire to make use of the Moroccan economic example to help Pakistan overcome a number of economic and financial problems. On the other hand, the Pakistani prime minister stressed that bilateral relations will have a fresh impetus thanks to the continuous consultations and more frequent visits between officials of the two countries. She recalled, in this regard, the Islamic summit scheduled in our country in the coming months and the possibility of leading her country's delegation to that summit.

She also talked about the suggestion of sending Moroccan scientists to teach in Pakistan and to make use of Morocco's experience in the field of family planning. Following this news conference, Prime Minister Bhutto left Morocco at the end of her official visit. [passage omitted]

PPS Calls For Sustained Security Efforts

LD1309133494 Rabat MAP in English 1306 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 13 (MAP)—The Moroccan Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS/opposition) called on all national forces to sustain their efforts in their struggle for territorial unity and against sabotage.

The call came in a statement released by the party at the end of a meeting of its central committee to look into the events which took place lately in Morocco, mainly the recent armed attack on the Atlas-Asni [hotel] in Marrakech.

The statement called on all national forces to work out a program to 'ensure the success of our struggle for territorial unity, help us face sabotage acts, support the state of law, human and social rights, and build a prosperous national economy'.

The statement also called for the consolidation of the 'domestic front to face plotters and ensure the victory of the patriotic cause and progress through the defence of human rights, democracy and social justice'.

Sudan

Protest Lodged With Egypt Over Demonstrations at ICPD

EA1309201194 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Sudanese Embassy in Cairo has handed over an official note to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry protesting against the decision by the Egyptian authorities to allow so-called Sudanese opposition elements in Cairo and remnants of the rebellion to demonstrate at the meeting of nongovernmental organizations and indigenous organizations within the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD].

The note also voiced Sudan's protest against the decision to provide these elements with Egyptian identification papers which enabled them to enter the conference hall.

Earlier, the Egyptian interior minister had issued a decree banning demonstrations during the conference. The note also protests against the detention by the Egyptian authorities of Sudanese [nationals] attending the conference who were subsequently released after identification.

Finance Minister Previews IMF Talks in Washington

EA1309172494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Mr. Abdullah Hasan Ahmad, the minister of finance, will head for Washington this morning to attend the meeting of the IMF's board of directors to discuss its position regarding Sudan.

The minister of finance announced that the meeting would concentrate on the agreement reached between Sudan and the fund's mission which visited the country recently. He pointed to the complete agreement concluded with the mission on fundamental issues and the establishment of a timetable as well as on some other policies.

His excellency also announced that the report to be presented to the board might not discuss the forced withdrawal of Sudan from the fund and, by extension, there might not be a proposal from the board of governors on the imposition of sanctions against Sudan.

Western Sahara

Voter Identification Process Viewed

LD1309142294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] In order to implement the UN peace plan in Western Sahara, the operation for defining the Saharan

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voters' identity was launched at the end of August. Correspondent Mohamed Mokhtari sent us the following report from Tindouf on the conditions in which the operation is taking place:

[Begin recording] [Mokhtari] The first stage in implementing the peace plan was launched at the end of last month. It was an operation conducted to define voter identity and was attended by technical teams from the UN, one in Laayoune in the occupied territories and another in the area where the refugee camps are situated.

According to observers, the operation in the refugee camps took place in good conditions and with the approval of all the tribes; it was also well attended by the international press. As for the occupied city of Laayoune, observers from the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio] Front said that the UN activities were organizational, that the operation took place in good conditions, and that it was well attended by the Moroccan press, although the international press was completely absent, as it was prevented from attending and observing the operation on the ground.

In addition to this, some technical teams from the OAU attended the operation but were compelled to work within the framework of the UN teams and not as representation of the OAU, after the unexpected and incomprehensible veto presented by Morocco stipulating the non-participation of the OAU and its representatives as observers in the UN peace plan on Western Sahara.

This stage which consists in defining voters' identity continued for four days and was then stopped. The Saharan ambassador in Algeria considered that it was unlikely for the referendum to be organized before the end of the year because of the obstacles which are created by the Moroccan regime.

[Saharan ambassador] We do not think that it is possible to organize the referendum by this date as a result of the absence of political will on the other side to overcome the obstacles. One must overcome these obstacles through direct negotiation because we believe that the technical operation relating to defining the identity of parties or voters is not a big problem and can be overcome on the basis of direct negotiations between the parties in conflict. However, and it is very regrettable, we believe that the policy followed by the other side aims only at swamping the committee for defining voters' identity with cases of voters who have no link with the Western Sahara and thus making the original UN peace plan fail.

As far as we are concerned, history will be defined by the political will of the other side in direct negotiations or by getting out of the province and handing over its administration to the UN as it is scheduled in the original plan for the self-determination of the Saharan people. [end recording]

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GCC Secretary General on Regional Issues

LD1309124394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0738 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 13 Sep (KUNA)—Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has said that the recent moves made by the GCC ambassadors at the United Nations reflect the anxiousness of the GCC member states to prevent Iraq from avoiding compliance with its international commitments relating to its invasion of Kuwait.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti news agency here today, Shaykh al-Qasimi expressed his satisfaction with the contacts which the GCC ambassadors have had with the permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council, adding that those contacts were aimed at reaffirming their opposition to the lifting of sanctions on Iraq when the subject is reviewed tomorrow, Wednesday, at a regular meeting.

Shaykh al-Qasimi said that these efforts were in line with the resolution adopted by the GCC council of foreign ministers at their meeting held in Abha, southern Saudi Arabia, last July. He added that the GCC Secretariat also discussed this matter with China and France when he visited these two countries last May, and that he found a good response to the need to continue imposing the blockade on Iraq until it abides by international resolutions. [passage omitted]

In his interview with KUNA the GCC secretary general dealt with a number of other topics including the Gulf relations with Iran and with the states which stood by Iraq and against Kuwait, and the Yemen, and the extent of the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, and the security and economic accord between the Gulf states.

Regarding GCC relations with the Arab states which stood with Iraq during the latter's invasion of Kuwait he expressed his hope "that these states will adopt a policy different to that which they followed in the past—a policy which takes into account the fact that the GCC member states were disappointed with that policy—and work for the removal of the effect of that policy so that all can proceed toward a beneficial reconciliation which will gather all the Arabs anew." [passage omitted]

The GCC secretary general rejected what is being rumored that recent developments in the Middle East have lessened the acuteness of the strict stances of the GCC member-states vis-a-vis the states which stood with Iraq, and he pointed out that the GCC member-states, proceeding from their principles and in implementation of the UN resolutions, supported peace without linking that with the stances of the states involved in the peace process.

Regarding Iran's call addressed to the GCC member-states to limit expenditures on armaments, Shaykh Fahim said that "the GCC member-states' arms purchases aim at maintaining their security." He reaffirmed that they are peace-loving states. He also stressed the GCC member-states' call "which aims at laying down the foundation of security in the region and establishing relations based on non-interference in internal affairs and mutual respect among states." [passage omitted]

Concerning the future of relations with Yemen after the recent events, Shaykh Fahim said that the GCC states "are looking for the establishment of good relations as they used to be in the past." He pointed out that the Council's states attempted before and during the Yemeni crisis to contain the conflict.

As for the issue of establishing diplomatic links with Israel, Shaykh Fahim said that "the establishment of relations with Israel, be it through offices or embassies, will not be achieved as long as it continues to occupy the Syrian Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and Holy Jerusalem." He denied any knowledge of the existence of Israeli attempts to establish links with the Gulf states.

On increasing the current support for the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Shaykh Fahim said that "the Council's states will not abandom supporting the Palestinians, just as in the past." [passage omitted]

Al-Qasimi described the comprehensive security agreement between the GCC member countries, of which he said that many of its articles have been adopted, as being "a qualitative leap in the sphere of cooperation between the member countries and a pioneering step which came after the economic agreement achieved by the Cooperation Council." [passage omitted]

About whether there was coordination among the Council's states in concluding arms deals, the Gulf official said "there was coordination in the military sphere, but some countries had their own circumstances and special regimes which prevented unified purchasing operations." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Rights Committee Issues Statement on Arrests

MM1309153094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Sep 94 p 1

[Excerpt] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights [CDLR] in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has confirmed that the authorities have over the past three days launched a large-scale arrest campaign targeting a large number of ulema, university professors, and supporters of the committee in the country.

The committee said in a statement, a copy of which AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has received, that those arrested include Shaykhs Safar al-Hawali and Salman al-'Awdah, who are among the most popular ulema in the Kingdom

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and the most critical of the regime. However, it said in another statement later that they had been released after interrogation.

The committee announced last Thursday [8 September] the arrest of Dr. 'Abdallah al-Hamid after investigation forces stormed and thoroughly searched his house in the al-Rawdah district in Riyadh. Dr. al-Hamid is a founding member of the CDLR and he was dismissed from his post in the Arabic Language Department at Imam Muhammad Bin-Sa'ud Islamic University. He was detained for more than two months last year.

On Thursday investigation forces also stormed the house of Dr. Muhsin al-'Awaji, assistant professor in the Faculty of Agriculture at King Sa'ud University. The house, which is situated in the al-'Alya district in Riyadh, was searched, and Dr. al-'Awaji was taken to an unknown destination.

The committee described him as one of the most distinguished and known reformists who played a prominent role in all reform steps represented in the ulema's letter, the advice memorandum, and the defense committee. He was arrested last summer for more than a month. [passage omitted]

Rights Committee Statement Details 'String of Arrests'

NC1309202694 Paris AFP in English 1942 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Nicosia, Sept 13 (AFP)—Saudi police have rounded-up several leading campaigners for political reform in a wave of arrests over the past few days, a Saudi human rights organisation charged Tuesday [13 September].

The Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) said in a statement sent to AFP from its London base that religious leader Shaykh Salman al-Awda, 39, was the latest in a string of arrests when he was detained early Tuesday.

A thousand police had surrounded his home in Buraydah, 300 kilometres (180 miles) northwest of the capital Riyadh, the statement added.

Two days earlier Awda had given a fierce speech in front of hundreds of supporters denouncing arrests of several religious leaders and teachers, sympathetic to the CDLR's ideas.

Among those held were founder member Shaykh Safar al-Hawalli, a lecturer at the religious University of Mecca, and Mohsen al-Awaji, a teacher in agronomics at the King Saud University in Riyadh, the group said.

The group, who say they base their action on Islamic principles, was banned by Riyadh several days after it was formed in May 1993 with the aim of fighting "oppression and injustice" in the kingdom.

In its statement it said the arrests were "a declaration of war on Islam by the ruling clique," and called on "Muslims in the Arabic peninsula to voice their support for those arrested by holding demonstrations."

It said that because of the growing number of arrests "a high-level US delegation is expected in the next few days in Saudi Arabia."

The same delegation was recently sent by US President Bill Clinton to the kingdom to ask King Fahd to "make concessions to the people in the area of human rights, by bringing in political, social and economic reforms."

"These demands provoked the king's anger," the statement added.

King Fahd has repeated on several occasions that human rights are guaranteed in Saudi Arabia.

Yemen

YSP's Muqbil on Central Committee Meeting

MM1309142694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 94 p 5

[Telephone interview with YSP Secretary General Salih 'Abbad Muqbil, in Sanaa, by 'Abdallah Hammudah, in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] Some [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] leaders emerged from the recent Central Committee meeting in Sanaa to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the meeting and the election of the new Political Bureau. What is your opinion?

[Muqbil] To the best of my knowledge, no one is casting doubt on the quorum of the Central Committee meeting. We were keen to secure a quorum in order to hold the meeting in a legal framework with a view to averting the insults aimed against us both inside and outside the country. Our meeting was supposed to begin on Thursday. But we considered the Thursday meeting a procedural one to ascertain the scale of attendance and avert any complaint about its legitimacy. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Are you a provisional leadership until the party's fourth congress is held?

[Muqbil] Perhaps my answer to that question stems from a clear and specific decision issued by the Central Committee. We made a decision stipulating the election of a political bureau in the following manner: The YSP Central Committee is to elect a political bureau at this session, which is attended by 23 members, in accordance with the powers granted to it under the party's bylaws. The Central Committee is to entrust its new political bureau with the following: First, leading the party's political and representation activities and representing it in dialogues with various political forces and with the state. It is the only body to represent the party at the internal and external levels.

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Second, taking direct responsibility for implementing the party's policy. No other person or party has the right to speak in the party's name.

[Hammudah] The emergence of a large number of northern elements has been noted. This is in addition to southern elements from the wing that used to support former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. Does that mean a change in the party's structure?

[Muqbil] I think this question reflects some confusion. I do not believe that the matter is to do with north or south. Nor do I believe that the matter is to do with settling scores. Maybe I was the only one belonging to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's wing in the past. Apart from me, I believe no one else represents that wing. As for the Central Committee, the selection of its members is governed by a number of principles: One has to be a member of the parliamentary bloc or a first secretary of one of the party's organizations.

[Hammudah] There have been reports of a threat of a split in the party. What truth is there in this?

[Muqbil] The results achieved so far by the Central Committee give us complete satisfaction that we have transcended the possibilities of a split. However, it is possible that some people might call for a split here or there. But the results the Central Committee has come out with satisfy no one inside or outside the country.

[Hammudah] Why?

[Muqbil] First, the ruling forces in the country had hoped that this session would dismiss the elements now abroad. We do not consider the dismissal issue the main one. The main issue is to restore cohesion among the Yemeni people and to open the door to a broadly based dialogue, whose main prelude is a general amnesty and everyone's return to exercise normal life throughout Yemen. That was what those inside the country wanted, but we dashed their hopes. As for those abroad, they had hoped that we would come out with a jelly-like political tool that would retain their presence abroad as a tool expressing the party's policy inside the country. But we prevented that and demanded that it be stopped immediately and that the leadership's policy be respected.

[Hammudah] That prompts a question about the reasons for your refusal to dismiss the leaders accused of secessionism.

[Muqbil] Because we are not dealing with individuals, but rather, policies. We are interested in destroying the policies, not the individuals. If the policy of the individuals abroad conflicts with the policy of the leadership inside the country, it will be a different matter. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] If you are the Socialist Party's new permanent leadership, to what extent are you coordinating with the leaders now abroad?

[Muqbil] First, the leaders now abroad acknowledge that the leadership is the one inside the country. And those abroad should reflect those inside the country and implement their policy. If they violate this policy, they will be held responsible.

[Hammudah] Do you not believe that that stirs up accusations against you or represents a burden on you inside?

[Muqbil] So far we are satisfied with all we receive from our brothers —not leaders—abroad. Because we have not wronged them in any way, and we are demanding their return, especially the return of the parliamentary elements, because we need them. We need them, because their absence is announced daily—which arouses our discontent. The matter could require a reconsideration of their representation of their constituencies, because they are absent without excuse.

[Hammudah] Do you mean electing replacements?

[Muqbil] That problem could be raised, because there is no justification for their being abroad, as they represent constituencies inside the country. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Do you plan to participate in power in accordance with the coalition agreement signed after the elections, or do you plan to remain in opposition?

[Muqbil] First, our brothers the partners of the military victory have excluded us from the cabinet. We have also been denied posts like deputy ministers, under secretaries, and department directors, even school directors. This means that the victorious partners have monopolized power. With regard to us, our Central Committee is demanding the formation of a national government, not a coalition government. It should be assigned to build what the war destroyed, to review the Constitution, and to reexamine development inclinations.

[Hammudah] Does that mean that you will remain the opposition until a national unity government has been formed?

[Muqbil] Yes. [passage omitted]

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Tariq 'Aziz Meets More UN Members in New York

JN1309110794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] New York, 13 Sep (INA)—Yesterday evening, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held three new meetings with a number of the Security Council members.

The deputy prime minister met with French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee. He earlier met with Henrique Valy [name as received], Brazilian charge d'affaires, and Shir Afgan Khan [name as received], Pakistani charge d'affaires.

Brazil and Pakistan are both nonpermanent members of the Security Council.

UN Periodic Review of Sanctions To Begin

JN1309165794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] United Nations, 13 Sep (INA)—Senior diplomatic sources at the United Nations have asserted that the Security Council's review of the blockade [imposed on Iraq], which is scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, will not be an important event because the meeting will be an ordinary one. However, these sources also said that vital issues, led by the lifting the blockade, will be discussed following this meeting and will last a few weeks.

The sources added that in the consultations held this morning, Tuesday, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, informed the Security Council of the positive developments achieved through Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission. They indicated that the date for lifting the blockade and its procedures will be seriously and substantially raised during the meetings that Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will hold with the foreign ministers of the member states taking part in the UN General Assembly's 49th session. This session will begin on 26 September.

It is worth noting that Tariq 'Aziz will lead the Iraqi delegation to the General Assembly discussions. He is scheduled to deliver Iraq's speech on 7 October.

Official Confers With Yemeni Nasirite Delegation

JN1309144694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1346 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, has met with a Yemeni Nasirite Popular Unionist Organization delegation led by 'Abdallah Muhammad Salih al-Maqtari, assistant secretary general of the organization's Central Committee.

'Abd-al-Ghafur hailed fraternal Yemen's genuine pan-Arab positions on the historic duel in the immortal Mother of Battles that was waged against the colonialist and Zionist forces, which are hostile to pan-Arabism and mankind. He greeted the triumph of legitimacy in Yemen and the Yemeni people's adherence to their unity.

'Abd-al-Ghafur asserted that the building of a new Iraq has yielded fruit in terms of both continuing the jihad and giving a pan-Arab ideal to the nation with regard to will, struggle, and confronting the repercussions of the unfair blockade. He indicated that international support for Iraq is now a bright fact despite the U.S.-Zionist attempts to continue the unfair blockade.

For his part, al-Maqtari said the Yemeni masses and their militant political forces take pride in Iraq's militant and unionist stand under President Saddam Husayn alongside Yemen in defending Yemeni unity and dignity. He also lauded the great ongoing Iraqi reconstruction campaign in various fields, as well as the continuing and accelerating construction in Iraq despite the difficult circumstances resulting from the blockade.

Assembly Speaker Urges Strong Ties With S. Korea

JN1309123894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with Dr. (Chin Chiong Bill), president of the South Korean Hanol Trade Group, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, Sa'di Mahdi Salih expressed Iraq's desire to promote its relationship with South Korea and reinstate its interest in the peoples of the two countries.

Official Receives Russian LDP Delegation

JN1309203194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, deputy official in charge of the Foreign Relations Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Iraq Command, this evening met with a Russian Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] delegation led by Aleksei Valinovig Trovanov [name as transliterated], LDP vice chairman and deputy head of the Foreign Relations Committee in the House of Representatives, the Duma [title as received].

Jasim reviewed the recent developments at the UN Security Council with regard to the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq, and stressed the need to lift it based on Article 22 of Resolution 687, now that Iraq has fulfilled its legal commitments, particularly Section C of this resolution, and has also accepted Resolution 715.

The Russian official stressed the importance of promoting bilateral relations between both friendly parties and peoples [words indistinct] LDP leader Zhirinovsky toward Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn regarding the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq.

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Trovanov conveyed Zhirinovsky's greetings and demand that the unfair blockade on the Iraqi people be lifted. This position expresses the will of the entire Russian people, he said. Trovanov pointed out that the blockade imposed on Iraq has harmed both Russia and its vital interests. He stressed his party's eagerness to employ all practical capabilities to promote cooperation between Iraq and Russia and also between both friendly parties.

Blast Kills Intelligence Men; Security Wanes

NC1309182494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Reports from Baghdad say the situation is worsening and security is getting out of hand. We have received reports from reliable sources that an explosion occurred in the Kurds' Pursuit Office, which belongs to Iraqi intelligence in the al-Karradah area of Baghdad. The blast was caused by a hand grenade, killing office employees including Intelligence Officer Samir Munir 'Atiyah al- Zubaydi and another intelligence officer. The blast, which occurred on Saturday, left 27 people injured. The office is used to train personnel in carrying out sabotage operations.

Sources said security in Baghdad is deteriorating, particularly after the Iraqi opposition stepped up their activities, most notably in the al-Thawrah District. The regime was forced to summon tribal chiefs and figures to serve notice on them to guarantee the district's security or face harsh punishment.

The sources said that following the decision to mutilate army deserters by cutting off their ears and branding their foreheads, a doctor in Baghdad was executed for refusing to cut off soldiers' ears. According to reports from al-Hillah and al-Basrah, two doctors were executed for the same reason.

On 10 September the Iraqi regime's henchmen in Karkuk launched a large-scale arrest campaign in the [name indistinct], al-Qasim, and al-Iskan quarters. KURDISTAN NWAY, which published a report citing exclusive sources in Karkuk, said the regime's henchmen arrested dozens of people for failing to report for military service or deserting the army and moved them in three large trucks to the Saddam Hospital to have their ears cut off. The paper said doctors at the hospital disappeared because they did not want to commit such a crime.

Recent Bomb Blasts Cited as Sign of Instability

NC1409110594 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Amman, Sept 14 (AFP)—Three bombs have exploded in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities so far this month, as the country slides into insecurity, the Iraqi opposition said Wednesday.

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), an alliance of Arab and Kurdish groups, said a car bomb targeted the general security offices in the Baladiyat district of the capital last Friday [9 September].

It did not report any damage or casualties.

The previous Wednesday [7 September], a bomb also exploded at the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad, again without causing casualties, the INC said in a statement sent to AFP in the Jordanian capital.

And a third bomb went off in the Shiite Muslim city of al-Najaf in central Iraq on September 3, damaging a police post and vehicles, it said.

The attacks were "part of a series of explosions in Iraqi cities confirming the country's prevailing insecurity and the inability of the dictatorial regime to control them," said the INC.

The coalition, based in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, has said two bombs exploded in Baghdad in April close to the industry and agriculture ministries.

There has been no official confirmation of the blasts from Baghdad.

PUK Members Visit KDP Headquarters

NC1309181794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Kawthar Rasul 'Ali and Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, members of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Political Bureau, visited the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] Political Bureau headquarters in the summer resort of Salah al-Din in Irbil Governorate. They were received by Mas'ud Barzani, KDP leader; 'Ali 'Abdallah, KDP deputy leader; Sami 'abd-al-Rahman and Fadil Mirani, KDP Political Bureau members; and Muhsin (Jazawi), the KDP leader's personal representative. Both parties then held a meeting that lasted approximately two hours. During the meeting they discussed the steps that have been taken to normalize the situation in Kurdistan.

Afterward Dr. Fu'ad Mas'um and Kawthar Rasul 'Ali visited Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, at his headquarters in Salah al-Din. During the one-hour meeting they discussed the latest political developments in Kurdistan.

Saddam Chairs 18th Cabinet Session

JN1309134294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1148 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that among the things that our intellectual and ideological heritage cautions against is condoning mistakes. He added that among the most important bases that one should take into account in order to avoid this conduct is promoting ones ability to penetrate the barriers that insulate mistakes, and that one should do so with clear thinking, a noble objective, and relentless resolve.

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The president made these remarks while chairing the cabinet's 18th session. Addressing the ministers, his excellency said: Among the tasks of any minister is to contemplate and work to penetrate the administrative cordons around him, so he may not condone unexpected mistakes. These mistakes may accumulate and obstruct the activity required of his ministry.

The president stressed the importance of searching for alternatives to address the loopholes and hold discussions on them in order to reach a better alternative. He also emphasized that deterrent actions should be the last resort after all other actions have been tried and have failed. At the same time, we should be careful not to do injustice to anyone, and we should give everyone their due, he added.

His excellency lauded the role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's organizations in urging the state institutions to be active and follow up on matters, using clear and understood methods. He also called on specialists and university professors to interact with their counterparts in the state's economic, financial, legal, administrative, and technical institutions, so both sides can enrich each other with their knowledge and experience.

In its 18th session, the cabinet discussed a number of economic and social issues listed on the agenda, and made appropriate decisions about them.

Ministry To Hold Conference on Role of Mosques

JN1309175594 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 1 Sep 94 p 2

[Text] Under the patronage of the mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs will organize on 10 October 1994 the first conference for mosques in Iraq under the slogan: "The Mosque is a School Sponsoring Religious and Earthly Affairs." The conference will last for three days.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, has told an Iraqi News Agency correspondent that the conference will discuss six topics: the mosque's role in tackling the challenges facing Iraq in particular, and the countries of the Islamic World in general, from the enemies of God and humanity; the importance of the mosque and its role in guiding society and molding the personality of the Muslim; effective means of managing mosques in a sound manner; methods of restoring the mosque to its original place in early Islam; the rules governing the building of mosques for the five prayers and the grand mosques for prayers on Friday, holidays, and other Islamic occasions; and, finally, the qualifications of the imam, the preacher, the muezzin, and the custodian of the mosque. The minister added that the conference, in which several specialists and men of religion and the media will participate, aims at emphasizing the role of the mosque in society.

Government Carries Out Amputation Sentences

Thief's Hand Cut Off

JN1409124894 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] Al-Hillah (INA)—Babil Governorate's criminal court has passed the sentence of hand amputation on a thief called Salim Husayn Mahdi for robbing the house of 'Abd-al-Husayn Humayyid Hassun in the al-Imam subdistrict in the governorate. The INA correspondent in the governorate has reported that the sentence was passed in accordance with the Revolution Command Council Decree No. 59 for the year 1994 after the thief confessed to his crime.

Deserters' Ears, Thief's Hand Amputated

JN1409124594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] Two persons, who deserted from the military, had their ears cut off and their foreheads tattooed in Karkuk yesterday. The punishment was registered in their civil records and official documents.

Party organizations in Karkuk apprehended the two deserters, identified as Muhammad Shakkur Mahmud Rashid, born in 1975, and Sayil Salim Nuri Jamil, born in 1973, after they failed to rejoin their units.

In a public hospital in the Diyala Governorate, a criminal convicted of theft had his right hand amputated from the wrist and his forehead—between the eyebrows—tattooed. The criminal, identified as 'Ali 'Ubayd 'Abd 'Ali, was punished after being sentenced by Diyala's criminal court on 25 June, in accordance with Article 444/First of the penal code, for stealing a television set and a sum of money from the house of a relative.

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Rabin Supports Stationing U.S. Troops on Golan

TA1309142694 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Sep 94 p 13

[Report by Washington correspondent Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Oslo correspondent Yo'av Limor]

[Excerpts] "I support the stationing of U.S. soldiers on the Golan as part of an international supervisory force, fashioned after the force stationed in the Sinai as a result of the Camp David accords," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in a special one-hour satellite hookup to mark the first anniversary of the signing of the Oslo agreement telecast to Jewish communities in the United States. [passage omitted]

Rabin stressed that in his opinion, slight progress has been made in terms of Syria's public diplomacy, as reflected in al-Asad's speech at the opening session of the Syrian Parliament and Faruq al- Shar's statements in London, but numerous obstacles remain.

According to him, Israel agrees to pull back to an agreed line in exchange for peace, but it demands a few years to test the Syrian intentions. "After a minor withdrawal, we want to see full normalization for a while and only then to pull back to the agreed line. Furthermore, we must reach an agreement on security arrangements, which should include demilitarization, early-warning stations, and the deployment of an international supervisory force, as was the case in the Sinai Peninsula," the prime minister stated. [passage omitted]

Rabin disclosed that the peace process with the Palestinians had not been easy. "After 100 years of struggle, we had to make a dramatic and strategic decision. Nevertheless, if I had to do the Oslo process all over again today, I would do exactly the same thing. After all, I believe this was a first step, an important and significant step toward the solution of this protracted conflict." [passage omitted]

Gur: Referendum on Entire Peace Plan With Syria

TA1309123294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur stated in the Knesset that the government will present the peace plan with Syria in its entirety for the public's decision rather than a partial plan only. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Deputy Minister Gur made these remarks at the end of the Knesset debate on the Golan Heights issue.

Earlier in the debate Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that the Likud will not attempt to bring down the government in connection with Golan law issue so as not to give Labor Knesset members [MK's] an excuse for surrendering to party discipline in this issue.

Our correspondent reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left the plenum in anger after MK 'Uzi Landau called him a liar, and Binyamin Netanyahu refused to denounce this utterance.

The special Knesset session on the various motions to the agenda raised by the opposition parties is continuing.

Savir on Peace Process, Ties With Syria, Jordan

BR1309112094 Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Sep 94 p 8

[Report on interview with Uri Savir, chief Israeli negotiator of the Oslo Agreements, by Mouna Naim in Paris; date not given: "Uri Savir: 'Israel Is Now a More Optimistic and Confident Country'"]

[Text] It was amid the euphoria (of 13 September 1993 - LE MONDE editor's note) that we were realistic. It was then that we understood the profound change and not now (that we are going into—LE MONDE editor's note) the details." On a brief visit to Paris at the end of last week for a meeting of the countries supplying aid to the Palestinians, Uri Savir, the chief Israeli negotiator of the 13 September 1993 Declaration of Principles, expressed regret that the world has forgotten the magnitude of the event which took place a year ago. He thinks this is as inconceivable as the event itself: "the mutual recognition of two national movements, that of the State of Israel and the PLO, which is also a flag even if it is not immediately or even necessarily a state."

Mr. Savir is undoubtedly right if you think of the nature of the conflict between Israel and the PLO before the signing of the agreement. The "details" are nonetheless important to the extent that they must translate into reality the major change of direction made on paper.

Uri Savir, the first official representative of the Israeli state to secretly establish contact with the PLO delegates in Oslo in May 1993 (Footnote) (For the whole story of the Oslo negotiations, see the well-researched book by Jane Corbin "The Norway Channel, The Secret Talks that Led to the Middle East Peace Accord" published by Atlantic Monthly Press, New York), reaffirmed that at the end of the 1967 Israeli-Arab war "the Israelis dominated the Palestinian people, and that went against their values as Israelis and as Jews." He therefore expressed his joy at finally seeing "Gaza run by its inhabitants and the Palestinians taking charge of education both in that territory and on the West Bank." If the Israelis and Palestinians, like the rest of the world, cannot really see any progress now, it is, he thinks, because "we are like passengers on a plane who have the impression that they are not moving, whereas they are in fact going forward."

It is true that for Israel, the process has so far been profitable. Uri Savir pointed out that there has been "spectacular" progress "with Jordan"—with which the Israeli state signed an agreement on 25 July ending the state of hostility. He revealed that "Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations will start in October

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on economic questions" and already sees "the seeds of a tripartite economic confederation."

Our interlocutor also welcomed the fact that the Arab world has "moved from a military strategy to one of economic cooperation" with his country. Morocco has already opened a "liaison office" in Tel Aviv. He spoke of a "veritable revolution in the international relations" of the Israeli state which now has official relations with 146 countries, in other words around 30 more than a year ago, not to mention the virtual ostracism of Israel until 1988. The improvement is not just quantitative but qualitative, he explained, pointing out that Israeli exports increased by 20 percent in a year with the East European and Asian countries.

For all these reasons and despite the failures of the current process, "Israel is now," in his opinion, "a more optimistic and confident country." "The Israelis have always been proud of their success despite a feeling of being surrounded. Today their pride is confirmed by the start of openness," he added. And while the latest opinion polls reveal that 85 percent of them "are optimistic about the coming year," this is almost miraculous to him, because "it virtually affects our national character."

'A Critical Year' Ahead [subhead]

However, not everything is yet going as well as it could. "We are entering a critical year which should enable us to finish establishing the foundations of peace in the Near East," Mr. Savir said. The negotiations with Syria and Lebanon are marking time. Israel regularly demands—as Mr. Savir stresses—the opening of "direct, effective, and discreet negotiations" with Damascus. So far the Syrian authorities have just as regularly refused. Signals from the Syrian capital are encouraging, he said, but these "indications" and the American mediation, "however praiseworthy it might be," are not enough. "A great deal of patience is required with (Syrian President Hafiz—LE MONDE editor's note) al-Asad," he merely said.

This is also what he said about Lebanon: The southern part of this country must come "under the control of the central government and the Lebanese Army without the presence of Hizballah" which is pro-Iranian. But the Lebanese still say that the Israeli Army must first withdraw so that Lebanon can organize itself on its own territory as it wishes. However, the Lebanese know better than anybody that their country is one of the cards in the negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Mr. Savir stressed that, aside from these questions, the real foundations of regional cooperation in the economic, environmental, and water distribution spheres still have to be established. And he pointed out that "major problems also remain on the periphery of the region, presented by Iraq and Iran, the fundamentalist threat, and terrorism."

"Only we (all the parties concerned—LE MONDE editor's note) can make the process irreversible," Mr. Savir said. "And we can do so by continuing along the same path."

Beilin Comments on Police Role in Haiti

TA1409100494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] While the United States is completing its preparations to invade Haiti and has dispatched two aircraft carriers to the island's shores, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met with his U.S. counterpart Strobe Talbott in Washington and was thanked for Israel's readiness to participate in the multinational force.

In an interview with our correspondent in the United States Arye Golan, Deputy Minister Beilin said that Israel's decision to send policemen was made with a heavy heart.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] This is not the kind of decision one makes every day. Actually, it is unprecedented as far as Israel is concerned. The fact that we were asked to send policemen to join a police force that will be established after the situation in Haiti stabilizes does us honor, and we appreciate such a request, especially when it comes from the U.S. President. We will have to examine the matter, and I hope that we will ultimately be able to send a voluntary contingent to Haiti that will mainly instruct the local police force. Therefore, while on the one hand this was a tough, difficult decision which was taken with a heavy heart, we must also on the other hand make every effort to prevent it from becoming more problematic than absolutely necessary.

[Golan] The Americans expect murders, retaliatory attacks, and real mayhem in Haiti following the ouster of the military junta. Do you fear that there will be Israeli casualties?

[Beilin] First of all, we saw in the past that it is very difficult to know whether or not such predictions will actually materialize. Perhaps the affair can still be resolved peacefully over the next few days without having to resort to violence. If the use of force indeed proves necessary, we shall have to examine the matter objectively and decide whether or not we can send our volunteers or whether such a step would be too problematic. [end recording]

Rabin, Weizman Receive Greetings From King Husayn

TA1409110194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn has sent new year's greetings to President 'Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. In his greeting, the king expressed the hope that through faith and commitment, Jordan and Israel would continue working to achieve the joint goal of peace and stability.

Netanyahu Says Syria Given Map on Total Withdrawal

TA1409112594 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Tal Shahaf]

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[Text] Israel has transferred a detailed map to Syria, which contains a plan for a withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights and the deployment of 1,000 American soldiers in the area. This was claimed yesterday by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu at a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction. Netanyahu said that the withdrawal map was given to him about a year ago by a source in the General Staff, but its very existence was denied at the time. He said that in a visit he paid to the United States recently, it was made clear to him beyond any doubt that the Syrians did in fact receive the plan.

The first stage, he said, involves a withdrawal to the first mountain ridge line, while handing over the Druze villages and several Israeli settlements in the northern Golan Heights. In the second stage, there will be a withdrawal to the western edge of the Golan plateau, and perhaps even below it.

Minister Dubious of Secure Relations With Syria

TA1209171194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Minister Efrayim Sne says he sees no possibility of returning to the 1967 border on the Golan Heights, because there is no chance of peaceful relations with Syria that will give 100-percent security for the next 200 years. Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Minister Sne held a news conference at which he presented a proposal for a new Labor platform which contains red lines suitable for Israel but not necessarily for Hafiz al-Asad. He said that if normalization and security arrangements with Syria are guaranteed, territorial concessions can be made on the Golan Heights.

Labor Party Draft Platform Proposal Rejects Withdrawal

TA1309171294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Sep 94 p A4

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Text] Minister Efrayim Sne has written a new Labor draft platform which rejects a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The document was drafted by Minister Sne following a series of consultations and discussions with a group of Labor Knesset members [MK's], including Secretary General Nisim Zvili; MK's Avigdor Qahalani, Eli Goldschmidt, Ra'anan Kohen, Nawaf Musaliha, Yosi Katz, and Avi Yehezqel; as well as Labor members (Reserve General) Avigdor Ben-Gal, Attorney Yitzhaq Herzog, and Dr. Avraham Wolfsohn.

Sne sent copies of the document to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who has not yet responded to the proposal, as well as to 4,000 party activists. He plans to work out his final proposal after receiving reactions from party members.

Sne says developments in the political arena call for changes in Labor's platform. "Whoever says that peace with Syria is possible without giving up an inch of the Golan is mistaken and misleading, but those who believe that peace will be achieved only if Israel leaves the Golan Heights completely and returns to the 1967 borders are also mistaken and misleading."

Sne believes that the platform he is offering, which is based on the middle road, will receive wide-ranging support in the party and the nation. In the chapter dealing with negotiations with Syria, Sne notes that "we must not accept the assumption that the Syrian demand for total withdrawal from the Golan Heights is an obvious condition for peace." Sne stresses that "al-Asad's opening shot cannot be Israel's final position." Sne says his proposal sets red lines and not constraints for the political negotiations.

The minister stresses that territory could be given up on the Golan, but only following a sufficient period of time in which normalization between the two states would be tested. Nevertheless, Sne believes that the platform should not go into detailed lines and maps but should deal only with principles. He says that Labor was wrong by going too much into details in the current platform. In his view, a discussion on the evacuation of settlements should also be avoided because it might harm the negotiations when they start.

Sne proposes that the Israeli civilian presence on the Golan be discussed in negotiations as part of the normalization package. He suggests that Labor's new platform state that in the framework of a full peace agreement with Syria, Israel will be prepared to give up territories on the Golan Heights, but under three conditions: any concession on territory on the Golan will be made only in return for normalization in relations between Israel and Syria, and a real step toward normalization is one that creates active and durable cooperation between Israelis and Syrians in the fields of trade, tourism, and culture; any concession on territory on the Golan must be made in return for security arrangements; Israel will keep its current water resources. Sne supports a national referendum before signing an agreement with Syria that involves significant territorial concessions on the Golan Heights.

In explaining his proposal, Minister Sne notes that the conditions for territorial concessions in his draft platform are based on the assumption that genuine normalization based on tangible steps between Syria and Israel is "the best guarantee of not returning to the state of war." In any event, he believes that the security arrangements must rid Syria of the ability to carry out a military action against Israel.

Another principle is that a real concession can be made only if there is a tangible return and not some verbal declaration or moves that can be easily reversed. In response to a question, Sne said he would prefer more

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than three years to test the normalization between Israel and Syria before deciding on the final line of withdrawal.

In the chapter on "Israel's defense concept," Sne notes that "even when permanent peace arrangements with its neighbors are achieved, Israel will need a security shield that assures its sovereign existence. Israel's defense concept must take into account the instability of the region; the threat to the civilian population, which is concentrated mainly along the coastline; and the fact that as a Jewish state, there will be differences between it and its Arab-Muslim surroundings.

"The military capability of Iraq and Iran, which aspire to possess weapons of mass destruction, underscores those considerations." This being the case, and in order to maintain the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deterrent power and ability to be victorious on the battlefield, Minister Sne believes that Israel's security shield in all areas, including Judaea and Samaria, must be based on two main elements: Israel's total military superiority in all fields of battle, technology, and intelligence, no matter what combination of Arab states join together in an act of aggression against it; and defensible borders that will enable the IDF to repel a land attack.

Shahal Concedes Increase in Killings Since DOP

TA1309165894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Excerpt] On the first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] between Israel and the PLO in Washington, Police Minister Moshe Shahal conceded today that the number of attacks in which Israelis have been killed since the signing is up. The Knesset plenum met in special session to discuss the anniversary, as well as the negotiations with Syria and other subjects. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] On the same day a year ago, according to the Gregorian calendar, Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat shook hands and signed the DOP on the White House lawn. A year ago, according to the Jewish calendar, on the day before the eve of Yom Kippur, the Knesset gave its support for the agreement. A year later, the Knesset met in special session again.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal battled Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin, but conceded on one issue. Police Minister Shahal said since September 13th of last year, the overall number of Palestinian attacks on Israelis is down, but the number of attacks in which Israelis have been killed is up. As compared with the first eight and a half months of 1993 before the agreement when 44 Israelis were killed, 48 died in the less than five months after the DOP until Gaza-Jericho First began implementation in May. In the some four months since, 15 Israelis have been killed according to the figures presented by the police minister. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Two PFLP Members Sentenced to Life for Murdering Israeli

TA1109112294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The Tel Aviv District Court has sentenced Mahmud Salman and Jalal Lukh to life imprisonment. They were convicted of murdering Shay Shuker in an orange grove in al-Tira in February this year. Our correspondent 'Anat Peleg points out that after they murdered Shuker they informed their superiors in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] of their deed.

2d Officer Arrested in 'Radical' Group Investigation

TA1209163794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Another IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer has been arrested, apparently in connection with the illegal extremist right-wing organization. Lieutenant Qobi Pinto, a 23-year-old resident of Qiryat Arba', was arrested at his base this morning. Lt. Pinto, a deputy company commander in the Golani Brigade, was a former cadet at the military academy together with Lt. Edri. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Begin Yokhpaz recording] Lt. Qobi Pinto, a settler from Qiryat Arba', was arrested today at his army base. He, too, is suspected of being involved in the radical right-wing organization. Lt. Qobi Pinto served as a deputy company commander in the Golani Brigade and studied at the same military academy as Lt. Oren Edri, the first officer arrested in connection with the affair. Pinto was also the director of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] branch in Qiryat Arba'. [passage omitted]

Lt. Qobi Pinto is the ninth person from Hebron's Qiryat Arba' neighborhood to be arrested. Settlers told us this evening that the police searched his apartment this morning, but Pinto was not there. He was subsequently arrested at his army base. [end recording]

In Haifa, the remand of Oren Edri was extended by another three days and the remand of the Qahalani brothers from Qiryat Arba' was extended by an additional 10 days.

Police Raid Home of Detained al-Rujb Bodyguard

TA1409091794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem police yesterday raided the home of one of Palestinian security chief Jibril al-Rujub's imprisoned bodyguards, removing about a dozen photographs, including those of Palestinians wanted by the security forces.

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Police maintained the pictures belonged to the suspect, Anwar 'Awad, 22, and would help in their investigation into the allegedly illegal operations by Palestinian security agents in Jerusalem and the territories.

'Awad 'Awad, 25, Anwar's brother and a well-known press photographer, charged the pictures were his and that police had tricked him into turning them over.

'Awad 'Awad works for the Agence France Presse, which filed a complaint with the Government Press Office and police.

"They gave me a piece of paper on which they said it was written in Hebrew that they were taking the pictures of 'Awad 'Awad," the photographer said.

He said he cannot read Hebrew, and only later when a friend read the receipt to him hid he discover that it was written that the pictures belonged to his detained brother.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmu'el Ben-Ruby denied that 'Awad was tricked. "During a search of Anwar 'Awad's home we took some pictures we suspected belonged to Anwar," he said.

The incident occurred amid charges by al-Rujub his agents are being unfairly hounded by the security services. Al-Rujub said he has taken the matter up with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Jerusalem police sources, meanwhile, said the chance arrests of the bodyguards Saturday, and uncovering of documents belonging to the Palestinian security service in their possession, represents an intelligence windfall.

Additional arrests of Palestinians in Jerusalem linked with al- Rujub's force, which is based in Jericho, are likely, the sources added. [passage omitted]

Shahal Orders Additional Police Along Green Line

TA1309110894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal has ordered an increased police presence along the Green Line and the Jerusalem Corridor. Mr. Shahal told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that due to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] expected withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria population centers, it will be necessary to recruit and deploy thousands of policemen along the Green Line. Some 800 policemen have been recruited to the Border Police to guard the four safe passage routes between Gaza and Jericho.

Air Force: U.S. Technology Needed After Golan Withdrawal

TA1209120594 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Sep 94 p 6

[Report by Roni Sofer]

[Text] "Any withdrawal that includes Mt. Hermon or the Golan Heights promontory ridge will affect Israel's security and harm 'Israel's eyes.' Such harm could be repaired only by the supply of advanced electronic early-warning systems, such as satellite data and sophisticated airborne equipment," Air Force sources stated yesterday.

According to these sources, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is concerned about a possible withdrawal from the promontory ridge and from Mt. Hermon which give the IDF good command of the Damascus basin area and the Syrian troops deployed opposite the Golan Heights." [quotation marks as published]

"The Americans will have to give Israel access to airborne technologies and equipment which are currently inaccessible to the IDF," the sources said.

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King Says Talks With Israel 'Encouraging'

JN1209180594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said the current peace negotiations between Jordan and Israel are good and encouraging. This emerged in a statement which His Majesty King Husayn gave to our political affairs correspondent and to journalists upon his return home this evening following an official visit to Germany and France and a private visit to Britain.

[Begin recording] [Husayn] Praised be God, the visits were very successful in Germany and then in France, as well as in Britain, where I had a period of rest. Thank God, the results are good, and we felt support, backing, and understanding for our position and very high appreciation of Jordan's position from all the officials with whom we met.

[Jordan Television correspondent Kassab Samawi] Your majesty, in your visit and talks, you stressed the political content and its connection to the peace process and the region's economic needs. What was the reaction?

[Husayn] Of course, we concentrated on the political dimension. We also concentrated on the region's needs and the economic and material dimension as regards Jordan and its burdens and responsibilities. The impression I have is that everything is going in the right direction.

[Samawi] Sir, if we may ask you about the recent Syrian statements, about the signs in the Syrian president's speech, do you think there is a possibility for making any progress soon?

[Husayn] I believe we all started from the same point and that all have a full commitment to arrive at the desired peace. We hope this will be the situation. As far as we are concerned, the negotiations are going on. I think that the results thus far are good and very encouraging and the atmosphere is good.

[Samawi] Sir, there are also encouraging signals from certain Gulf states in the recent days. Do you expect anything in this regard?

[Husayn] We wish for the best. We welcome this. We always hope that relations among all Arab brothers are the way they should be: Relations of brotherhood that are based on mutual respect and the genuine desire to cooperate and achieve integration. [end recording]

Minister Departs for Cairo Arab League Meetings

JN1309200494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The meetings of the 102d session of the Arab League's Ministerial Council will begin at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo tomorrow. The Jordanian delegation to the Cairo meetings is headed by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of education.

Prior to his departure from Amman today, al-Rawabidah made the following statement to our correspondent for political affairs ['Ali Salim Dhiyab]:

[Begin recording] [Al-Rawabidah] As is the case with previous sessions, the current session has an extensive agenda, topped by the Palestine question, developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Jerusalem issue, the refugee issue, as well as the occupied Arab territories, be they Jordanian, Syrian, or Lebanese. The topics listed on the agenda also include the Euro-Arab dialogue and the Arab-African dialogue, not to mention many other issues. At this session, we will attempt to highlight Jordan's position on all these issues, particularly since Jordan will be the chairman of this session. We will seize this opportunity to meet with our fraternal Egyptian officials, and Arab ministers to exchange views with them on the various topics listed on the agenda of the meeting.

[Dhiyab] With regard to Jerusalem, it will be one of the topics listed on the meeting agenda?

[Al-Rawabidah] Undoubtedly, it is an issue that we addressed with our Palestinian brothers when they came to Amman. It is not a bone of contention unless some sides seek to create an intra-Arab dispute. Our relationship with Jerusalem is historical. We have shouldered the religious responsibility for Jerusalem. Throughout history, we have played a prominent role in Jerusalem. We believe that it is the Palestinians who have the right to impose their sovereignty over Jerusalem. Likewise, we are aware that our Palestinian brothers have deferred discussions on Jerusalem until the final status of the negotiations with Israel. That is why we are underscoring this role in the religious area. We feel that we are capable of reaching an agreement with our Palestinian brothers on a clear and common perspective, one that precludes any differences on any issue.

[Dhiyab] With regard to the issue of Arab solidarity, which is of paramount importance, do you believe that it will be discussed at this session?

[Al-Rawabidah] In my opinion, this session will undoubtedly mark the beginning of an effort to revive Arab solidarity, and close Arab ranks. The current stage, successive international developments, world changes, and the formation of new and ever-growing groups on the international scene require all of us to stand united so that the Arab group may play an effective role on the regional and international scenes. Failing this, none of our states will be able to play an important historic role at present or in the future.

[Dhiyab] Thank you, Mr. Minister.

[Al-Rawabidah] You are welcome. [end recording]

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Columnist on Arab Relations, Restoring Kuwait Ties

JN1309143794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Sep 94 p 2

["Viewpoint" column by Muhammad al-Subayhi: "Kuwait: From Pain to Hope"]

[Text] Some people in the Arab world believe that Kuwaiti foreign policy is arrogant and derives its strength only from the power of the world naval fleets and the joint defense agreements it has signed with a number of super powers.

This, of course, is an unjust and distressing view that does not take into consideration the painful experiment of the Kuwaiti people who, suddenly, turned from a stable and rich people into a gathering of people wandering in the desert, seeking aid and help from the near and far. Therefore, the first prelude to understanding Kuwaiti policy is to put yourself in the Kuwaiti citizens' shoes and to give free rein to yourself to imagine the conditions experienced by the Kuwaiti citizens, in all the minute details, and then to make your decision. After this, the decision will not differ too greatly from the decision of the Kuwaiti politicians who have assumed the responsibility of getting out of their trap to restore balance and the homeland.

Based on this, we can fairly say that Kuwaiti foreign policy is not arrogant, but skeptical, in light of their bitter experience, and needs to have its confidence restored in those who try to extend a hand of friendship to Kuwait. It is natural for states to reconsider their policies after such experiences. It is also natural that the Kuwaiti policy after 1990 is not the same as that before 1990, especially since it is a state that has lost everything and then has restored everything. However, it began from square one, and he who begins from square one should begin from new bases. New beginnings take time to define their shape and to become mature. Now, the Kuwaiti foreign policy has taken its time to be formed and to become mature and to emerge from the pains of its wounds. Perhaps it will not take long for this to reflect on the Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations, taking into consideration that the brothers in Kuwait know full well that the Jordanians have never brandished a weapon in the face of any Arab, and that political stands are governed by circumstances and special and public interests. Jordan used to believe that Arab interests would be best served by settling Iraqi-Kuwaiti differences within the Arab fold, while the Kuwaitis, who were appalled by the shock, did not have confidence in inter-Arab negotiations and viewed this as a means to water down and prolong the issue.

Jordan was right and the Kuwaitis were also right, but the difference was over the international forces' interest in aiding Kuwait. The Kuwaitis know that the international forces did not support them for the sake of the principles of justice or to eliminate the injustice against those who have been wronged. They supported Kuwait to protect the oil fields and to punish Iraq. However, it makes no difference to he who has been wronged if the same results are achieved, even if their objectives are different. After all, he whose hand is in water is not in the same situation as he whose hand is in fire. Certainly, the Kuwaitis realize that in politics, there are no constant hostilities, and that neither Kuwait, nor Iraq or Jordan, can depart from the Arab ranks regardless of the politicians' decisions, the leaders' differences, and the blood that has been shed. This is because one's position on the map of humankind is decided by history and peoples.

We must discuss with the brothers in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and Iraq new bases to establish unshakable Arab relations. We must proceed from common interests and stress that our hand is extended to shake hands, not open to receive aid. We can help heal the rift, dress the wounds, and reconstruct through man, expertise, friendship, and amity. We have a humanitarian and political interest in this. This is because we are also in need of the political support of Saudi Arabia and Gulf at this particular time, a time in which we are trying to restore our rights and territory. We are confident that every Arab in the Arabian Peninsula wants us to restore our rights. We are also confident that the custodian of the two holy mosques [Saudi Arabia's King Fahd], the Kuwaiti amir, and his highness the president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] do not at all want to see any of Jordan's rights to its soil and water lost, and that they all wish us success in restoring our rights in full. However, we call on them to perform their duty and to translate their words into deeds. This can be achieved first through consultation, and then through cordial talks and contacts.

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Buwayz on Peace Talks, Lack of Arab Solidarity

NC1309165094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Report on news conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents on 13 September; place not given]

[Text] During a news conference held today Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that we still need further negotiations to explain several points in the peace process. He noted that there is international pressure on the Arabs preventing them from unifying their ranks regarding the basic positions on the peace process. Our correspondent in the Foreign Ministry, Khalil Fulayhan, reports:

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz will leave for Cairo this evening to lead the Lebanese delegation to the Arab League Council 102d ordinary session. During a news conference held today, Buwayz spoke about Lebanon's stance on the issues on the agenda, notably ending the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon, the Arab economic boycott of Israel, Arab solidarity, and other issues. Let us hear what Foreign Minister Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] You are leaving for Cairo this evening to head the Lebanese delegation to the Arab League Council meeting [words indistinct] the Israeli occupation of the south. Are these merely verbal promises or are there any new proposals?

[Buwayz] It is natural that Lebanon's participation in this Arab League session may open the way for talks at the Arab League and on the sidelines of the session. This session provides an opportunity to meet with a number of Arab foreign ministers to discuss issues relating to regional and bilateral developments. The Lebanese proposals will focus on the situation in the south, the Israeli acts of aggression, the Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails, and the continuing Israeli attacks. We will also explain our views on the progress, or rather the state, of the peace negotiations and a number of issues on the Arab League agenda. It seems that the Arab League will discuss the Arab boycott of Israel. Lebanon's stance on this issue is clear. We believe that the Arab boycott of Israel is a result of the Arab-Israeli crisis and the Israeli aggression and occupation of Arab land. It is not logical to discuss this issue outside the context of the negotiations and of emphasizing and explaining the need for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. If we call for a fair, comprehensive, balanced, and normal peace, it is inadmissible to ask the Arab party to discard this card as long as Israel continues to prevaricate on withdrawal and recovery of Arab rights. Any pressure on or demand of the Arab party to discard this paper is tantamount to a form of surrender by the Arab negotiators and is outside the context of serious and balanced negotiations during which an agreement may be reached.

[Correspondent] How can you explain [words indistinct] the Security Council of the Arab countries to lift the embargo. Did the United States officially ask Lebanon to lift the embargo?

[Buwayz] Of course, we would have liked the United States and President Clinton at least to link the request to lift the embargo with asking Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. Proposing this issue without requesting Israel to withdraw and halt its acts of aggression makes this proposal unbalanced.

[Correspondent] [Passage indistinct]

[Buwayz] We will put the Arab League in the picture of the peace negotiations, particularly because certain Arab brothers believe that Israel has indeed presented practical proposals to Lebanon regarding withdrawal. As as matter of fact, all that has happened so far is a sort of scenario with media echoes rather than serious substance.

[Correspondent] [Passage indistinct]

[Buwayz] Of course, for a few weeks or perhaps months, there has been a new U.S. procedure regarding the negotiations. The foundations of the peace process have been pinpointed more than before. I believe that the definition of these main lines of the negotiations, especially withdrawal from south Lebanon or from the Golan Heights, cannot be underestimated. However, I believe that we still need further negotiations to clear up several points. You may know that in such an issue the acknowledgement of the principle of withdrawal is insufficient. We want to know if this withdrawal is complete or incomplete and also the time the withdrawal will take place. We also want to know how the competent legitimate authorities will be given back their territory. I believe that these details are not less important than the principle of withdrawal.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the Arab summit to make Arab solidarity effective [words indistinct]

[Buwayz] Frankly speaking, the Arab situation is abnormal. I understand that there are difficulties in the way of understanding basic issues. I also understand that there is international pressure on the Arabs preventing them from unifying their ranks regarding the basic points of the peace process or certain major political options. However, I cannot understand how an Arab group linked by economic and cultural interests and by geography cannot work out an appropriate framework to promote and enhance common interests. Apart from ethnic, historical, and geographical links, it is unnatural for any geographic group not to have a mechanism for coordination and understanding on the level of economy, transport, the travel of passengers, and the traffic of goods as is the current state of affairs among the Arab countries.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, what is your comment on recent statements by Rabin, and what about the report

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published [word indistinct] regarding an American message on convening an urgent Lebanese-Syrian summit?

[Buwayz] Regarding Rabin's proposal, I have previously said and clarified that about nine months or one year ago, Israel proposed a project to set up a joint military committee. At that time, we said that such a committee cannot be formed unless we define its clear objectives. The objective is to schedule the Israeli withdrawal, in addition to studying the security requirements that accompany such a withdrawal. So long as the objective of this committee is not clarified, we reject such a proposal. At that point in time, this proposal was suspended. We will not accept forming a committee with unknown objectives. Such a move will only make us suspicious. If such a committee is to operate within the framework of the current situation, there is the truce committee, and we do not need any new ones. If this committee is supposed to deal with the deteriorating situation in the south, there are the international forces there, and we also do not feel the need to form a new committee. Such a committee can only be established when an objective is set for it, which is to schedule and program this withdrawal and study the security requirements necessary.

Later, a new Israeli request was proposed to us stipulating that the Lebanese authorities should stop the resistance in the south, after which Israel would test us for nine months or so, depending on the agreement. After all of this, Israel would discuss withdrawal with us. Such a proposal is obviously rejected by us. First of all, we are being asked to halt the resistance without any guarantees on the restoration of our rights and without any clear commitments. After that, we would be tested for a period of nine months, months of [word indistinct], during which we would not know what the final fate awaiting us would be. After that, we can talk about withdrawal. In other words, this withdrawal is surely not comprehensive, and we do not know in whose favor this withdrawal will be. We also have no idea about the various stages of this withdrawal. Therefore, the Lebanese proposal was clear and accurate. We demand a clear commitment regarding full withdrawal from all occupied Lebanese territories to a line behind the internationally recognized Lebanese-Israeli borders to enable the Lebanese authorities to spread their authority using their own mechanisms. This proposal contains three axes. The first axis rests on confirming full withdrawal, not partial and limited withdrawal. The second axis rests on confirming that Lebanon has internationally recognized borders. These borders cannot be discussed or negotiated. The third axis rests on confirming that any withdrawal must take place in the interest of the Lebanese government, no other, so that it can extend its control through its own mechanisms. I believe that Israel's dictionary, if it honestly wants to and has good intentions, is capable of structuring the appropriate expression for such a process.

[Correspondent] What about the Lebanese-Syrian summit?

[Buwayz] The subject of Arab-Syrian summits is not one that should be brought up every time there is a need for it. Of course, we are now undergoing swift changes and developments that at any point in time might require an Arab summit.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, Rabin says he is ready to meet with President al-Hirawi, although [words indistinct]. What is President al-Hirawi's stance on this issue. Will he respond to this call or...[sentence incomplete]

[Buwayz, interrupting] Regarding President al-Hirawi's stance, I believe it is more appropriate for him to express his opinion on this matter. On the general Lebanese policy, the Lebanese national policy in the negotiating process, we believe that the Madrid mechanism, which offered the necessary guarantees that were discussed and negotiated, is the correct mechanism for the peace process. So far, we believe that direct high-level negotiations are not justified so long as the bases and principles of the peace process are open to interpretation by Israel. When there are clear principles and a clear-cut Israeli commitment, we will then see what we will do. Every situation should be discussed on its own merit. Lebanon, which aspires to and is committed to this peace, is not maneuvering in these negotiations inasmuch as it is dealing with them very seriously. However, there is a great difference between peace and capitulation. We are not ready to mix up these two meanings. [end recording]

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Al-Shar' Rejects Rabin Golan Withdrawal Proposal

TA1309183894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Sep 94

["Excerpt" of interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by unidentified Dutch television correspondent on 8 September; place not given—recorded in English with Hebrew subtitles; translated from the English]

[Text] [Announcer] The Syrian foreign minister has rejected Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal for a minor withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Faruq al-Shar' granted an interview to a Dutch television station this evening, which was relayed to Mabat. Here is an excerpt from the interview:

[Begin recording] [Al-Shar'] Well, he spoke about the withdrawal within....

[Correspondent, interrupting] ...five years.

[Al-Shar'] Three years or five years, I don't know, but I heard yesterday it was three years. But we think from a realistic point of view and from a logistical point of view, and because of the small size of the Golan Heights, there is no need for a long period to conclude the withdrawal. In Sinai, for instance, the area where the Israelis pulled out from was over 60,000 km, while the area of the Golan is only 1,200 square km. So, it doesn't need years to pull out. Also, I would like to add that the more that we delay the withdrawal, the more that the peace will be established in the region. So, I believe there is a mutual interest of both sides to have, to conclude the withdrawal and peace in a relatively short period.

[Correspondent] Israel wants in exchange full peace with Damascus with diplomatic ties. Syria doesn't want to promise this in advance. Why is this?

[Al-Shar'] It's not in advance, but they are related to each other. There is some sort of interrelation, and we said we are ready for full peace in return for full withdrawal. This is our position, and this position is clear to the whole world, not only to the Israelis.

[Correspondent] Yesterday, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was very optimistic about the Israeli-Syrian process. Where does this optimism come from, do you think?

[Al-Shar'] Well, we are optimistic because, I think, if the Israelis were serious in the peace talks, if they were serious to reach a comprehensive peace and to push the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, I think optimism has a source of reality.

[Correspondent] Yes, but both parties haven't been moving for quite a while now.

[Al-Shar'] Well, for us, as far as we are concerned, we didn't delay the progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. It was in fact the intention of the Israeli Government to delay the progress on the Syrian-Israeli track in order to digest the other tracks—the Palestinian track and the Jordanian track—before making progress on the Syrian track. So, it was not our fault, I mean, if there was a delay.

[Correspondent] The Israeli Government, of course, has a problem with its public opinion.

[Al-Shar'] Well, we have a problem also with our public opinion. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Ambassador in Cairo on Peace, Other Issues

NC1409100894 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Sep 94 p 8

[Interview with Syrian Ambassador to Egypt Dr. 'Isa Darwish by Rabi' Shahin; place and date not given]

[Text] [Shahin] We have seen several moves and mediation attempts by Arab parties, led by Syria, to contain the dispute between Egypt and Sudan. Are there any moves or efforts right now? Has anything happened to end these problems and differences between the two countries?

[Darwish] I believe that we in Syria hope that relations between the brothers in Egypt and Sudan will be the best they can be, especially as we feel that the two countries' officials sincerely want them to be. Syria has expressed to the two sides its desire to hold a meeting at the highest level to discuss all the problems and issues in a spirit of brotherhood. Such action was taken before and brought some relaxation. As for the present and future, I can confirm that Syria will spare no mediation to solve any dispute between the two fraternal countries in a way that achieves their two peoples' interests. According to my information, contacts were held recently between officials in Egypt and Sudan on holding meetings. I do not know what results these contacts have achieved. But we in Syria are pained by the differences in the two countries' views.

[Shahin] While the U.S. Administration was getting ready to let its secretary of state continue his mediation between Syria and Israel, it continued to accuse your country of supporting and sponsoring terrorism and it has kept Syria on the list of terrorist countries. What is the explanation for this?

[Darwish] These are basically Israeli accusations leveled by the pro-Israeli Zionist lobby, which is propagating these claims in the United States. We believe that Washington adopts these claims for domestic reasons and because of the Zionist lobby's penetration of and hegemony over the decisionmaking process, Congress, and the media in addition to the Zionist influence in the U.S. Administration itself.

[Shahin] Don't you think that this U.S. stance conflicts with its role in the settlement negotiations?

[Darwish] We ask the United States, the superpower now, to be fair and just in its role during the negotiations in view of its responsibilities. Regrettably, despite its

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declared efforts to achieve peace in the region, it is insisting on imposing the Israeli concept of peace. That's what it did with the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement and then the Jordanian Declaration of Principles.

In addition to our belief in peace and in continuing the negotiations we reject the U.S. pressure to impose concessions on us in Syria or Lebanon, because we will not relinquish our legitimate right to retrieve all our occupied territory and soil.

[Shahin] Negotiations on the Syrian track are still facing major problems and difficulties. These difficulties are accompanied by reports about a draft agreement and Syria's agreement to apply the Sinai plan or the Sinai talks example to the Golan. What are the nature of these difficulties? Do you think the Sinai talks example could be applied to the Golan?

[Darwish] Israel still rejects full withdrawal from the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories. Since Israel has not accepted the principle of full withdrawal, there can be no talk of an example, application, or any criteria because this would be a hypothetical "scenario." The basic difficulty is the other side's intransigence and this makes us doubt its peace intentions. This is in addition to Israel's constant endeavor to arm itself in an extremely dangerous way following the signing of peace treaties with some Arab parties and the collapse of the communist camp, which it used as an excuse to claim that it was defending Western interests in the region and hence blackmailed the West on the pretext of confronting that danger.

[Shahin] Do you not think that the continuous talk about Israeli armament reflects the aggressive intentions of the Zionist state? And how long should the Arabs continue to trust the Zionist state's intentions at a time when it continues to build up its arsenal?

[Darwish] The superpowers' insistence on maintaining the nuclear balance during the Cold War prevented a third world war. This balance became the key to international detente. The question is: Why all this strategic imbalance concerning Israel? And why does Israel still receive such quantitative and qualitative weapons? We can reiterate that this U.S. policy of support for Israel and this clear strategic imbalance between Israel and the Arabs would make peace in the region fragile.

Security and stability will not be achieved in this region, because of Israel's military tendency and threat to use force against Lebanon and to deal a blow against Syria. All this menaces the region, jeopardizes the peace efforts, and enables Israel to expand whenever the international circumstances permit, especially as Israel has no regard for international law or UN resolutions.

Egypt and Syria have often urged international disarmament conferences to destroy all the weapons of mass destruction, particularly the Israeli-owned nuclear weapons, and to appoint an international committee to supervise the Israeli installations, but to no avail.

Israel still refuses any control over its nuclear reactors. Israel is even trying to disarm the Arabs of their conventional weapons so that it can enjoy political, economic, and military hegemony over the region and place the Arabs under its indirect occupation. This would enable Israel to achieve its dream of occupying Arab land and setting up its empire, which has always been the dream of Zionism.

[Shahin] How do you envisage Arab-Iranian relations, considering the good relations between Damascus and Tehran? And what role can you play to strengthen these relations and free them of any differences?

[Darwish] We in Syria believe that relations with the Islamic countries must be excellent. We see no contradiction between Arab and Islamic interests. If any differences erupt they will be the result of action by foreigners, as happened in the destructive Iraq-Iran war.

We believe that Iran is a fraternal Islamic state. It is a neighboring country with cultural, religious, spiritual, and economic relations with the Arab nation. The question is: Why do some Arab countries want to establish relations with Israel? And why are they not doing the same thing with Iran? Why did Arab countries establish good relations with Iran during the shah's era although the shah was known for his enmity to the Arabs and his friendship with Israel?

We still believe that any differences between some Arab countries and Iran can be patched up through dialogue and on the basis of the principles of Islamic and Arab brotherhood. We have heard that the Iranians want to have fraternal relations with the Arab countries and that these relations should be based on mutual respect and noninterference in domestic affairs. We, the Arabs, must hold negotiations with Iran to investigate the extent of its credibility in this regard.

AL-THAWRAH Reiterates Position on Peace Process

JN1409114194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial entitled "Peace of Justice and Stability," AL-THAWRAH says: In his speech, President al-Asad outlined the essence of Syria's position on the peace process when he said that "we want just peace because we want stability for the region, but the peace we want is the one that returns the land."

AL-THARAH emphasizes that contrary to the peace for which Syria calls, struggles, and does not accept any alternative, the partial and separate agreements have come as faulty, distorted, and fragile solutions aimed at torpedoing real peace.

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Israel has tried such solutions by drawing more than one Arab party into the trap of separate agreements and deals. The result was no more than concessions by the Arab party that was then isolated, and which lost a substantial part of its national rights, and the continued absence of stability and security in the Middle East.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If this proves anything, it is the soundness of the Syrian position and its concept of comprehensive peace, ways of realizing it, and the principles on which it should be based.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The peace that Syria accepts, for which it works, and to which it reiterates its commitment on all occasions is the one that restores land and rights to the Arabs, and as President al-Asad said, is the one that constitutes a factor of security and stability in the region.

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Afghanistan

Militia Attack in Samangan Province Repulsed

LD1309192694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT] 13 Sep 94

[Text] An attack by the Dostam militia was foiled in Dara-e Suf district, Samangan Province.

A security source reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that the attack that was launched yesterday in the western areas of Dara- e Suf district, Samangan Province, was foiled by the mojahedin's resistance.

During the attack, the criminal and infamous militia suffered eight dead, 11 injured; 15 were arrested. The mojahedin took 19 various weapons of the aggressor militia as booty.

According to another report from Konduz Province, the men of two militia posts, under the command of Colonel Abdol Qodus, commander of Battalion 1, Regiment 87, surrendered to the mojahedin in this province, bringing with them 12 weapons.

Dostam Intelligence Chief Reportedly Defects

LD1309191594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Major General Nur Mohammad Kohnaward, chief of the intelligence gathering service of the so-called Movement [Dostam faction], has recently come over to the side of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

A BAKHTAR Information Agency correspondent reports: [words indistinct] He took part in a news conference this afternoon and reported interference by the Uzbek Government in the internal affairs of our country to domestic and foreign correspondents.

Discussing this subject, he said: The Uzbek Government is financing Dostam in his revolt against the Islamic State. So far, Uzbekistan has put enormous military and logistical assistance at Dostam's disposal, such as tanks, artillery, and various weapons.

He added: The recent government victories have weakened the spirit and morale of the militia. The militiamen are now fleeing the battle fronts. For example, Dostam has now embarked on a forcible call-up in the areas under his control, and he forcibly dispatches youths to the battle fronts.

In response to a question, he said: Karmal and high-ranking personalities of the Parcham Party played an active part in masterminding the coup on 1 January, and he plays a role in the leadership of the Movement.

Regarding the coalition between Golboddin and Dostam in revolting against Islamic sovereignty, he said: This is a tactical and artificial coalition, which came about to grasp power and will not last long. He added: Dostam can in no way represent Uzbek nationals because he began his practice of killing men, first of all, with the Uzbek nationals residing in Jowzjan and Fariab provinces. In his animosity with other Muslim nationals—in particular, with the fraternal Pashtuns living in the areas under his control—he did not spare them any kind of atrocity and forced them to leave their homes.

India

Editorial Opposes ICO Mission to Kashmir

BK1309103394 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 12 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Don't Let the ICO Enter!"]

[Text] Nobody hoped that at the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) foreign ministers' meeting bouquets would be showered on Kashmir. The frustrated Pakistan Government was squarely defeated in raising the Kashmir issue in the Human Rights' Conference in Geneva, wherein China and Iran had supported India. So in light of that crushing diplomatic defeat, if the ICO had requested its general secretary to constitute a three member fact-finding mission to assess the Kashmir situation, it was not surprising. After Pakistan continued wailing, it was natural for the ICO to express this request. But that is absolutely clear in the organizations' blatantly partisan and prejudicial attitude. In the conference a decision was also made to constitute a contact group in the UNO by the ICO's efforts in order to make the people of Kashmir exercise their right of self-determination and also to make the member countries exert pressure on India to allow a plebiscite in Kashmir. Obviously Pakistan has succeeded in uniting the the Muslim countries to her cause and these countries, like Gandhari (the mother of Kauravas) of Mahabharat fame, have put a blindfold over their eyes. Here it must be remembered that that population of Muslims is more in India than it is in Pakistan. The organization is showing utter callousness towards the Indian Muslims. Its members are unable to realize that the Kashmir issue is not an Islamic issue. But Pakistan is out to usurp Kashmir by hook or by crook, and to fortify her claims she is deliberately creating a war-frenzy. The situation has become so alarming that she is linking her atomic program with the Kashmir situation. This plain fact should have been comprehended by the membeb countries of ICO. In any case, India is not bound to accede to the ICO request. This organization had openly sent an invitation to the Kashmir's All Party Hurriyat representatives to join it at Islamabad. It was obvious that India should not have allowed them to go there and so she did. Now India should not allow its fact-finding mission to enter Kashmir by any means. The ambassadors of the European Community countries have already listed Kashmir and given their report in which they unanimosly praise the transparency of the Indian policy with regard to Kashmir. Now there is no need to repeatedly prove our transparency or innocence. All know how Pakistan is fanning terrorism in Kashmir and even

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sending hired killers there. Pakistan is quite aware that she cannot defeat India in an open war. Hence her aggressive diplomacy to trouble India. The organization hopes that by December its contact group in the UNO shall be constituted. So, by December India's diplomacy on the Kashmir issue must develop sharp edges to deflate Pakistan's growing arrogance.

Editorial Criticizes ICO Resolution on Kashmir

BK1309092494 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 12 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Show Your Indignation As Well!"]

[Text] Instigated by Pakistan, the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) has once again passed an anti-Indian resolution meant to harass India. The ICO decided to form a three-member fact finding mission and sent it to assess the situation in Kashmir. It audaciously asked the Indian Government to grant every facility to the Kashmiri people so they could express a decisive opinion on their status through a plebiscite. In addition, ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid and Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahamd Ali stressed that the ICO would be in touch with the United Nations to form a contact group to help the Kashmiri people exercise their right to self-determination. The ICO's anti-Indian stance was apparent in its vehement criticism of India for not allowing the head of a Kashmiri secessionist group—the All-Party Hurriyat Conference—to attend the conference. It threw down a threatening gauntlet by declaring that the Hurriyat will continue to be invited in the future. The entire resolution was drafted based on the assumption that Pakistan's misinformation was true. This is not the first time the ICO has passed such a resolution. The secretary general's report, which was presented before the organization many times, also reflects an anti-Indian stance. Hence the ICO's latest resolution does not surprise anyone. In the present context, two factors [as published] cannot be ignored. Despite the best efforts of Indian representative Salman Khurshid, the Muslim countries did not refrain from supporting Pakistan. The ICO's decision to form a contact group and launch a campaign to press Pakistan's demands in the United Nations—thus ignoring the use of bilateral means to solve the Kashmir issue as well as showing the temerity to trespass upon our sovereignty by intervening in our internal affairs—presents a serious challenge to India to review its policy toward this blatantly partisan organization.

One Indian Government spokesman branded the ICO's role as "totally partisan and prejudiced." According to him, Pakistan wants its claims—which are steeped in "war-frenzy, nuclear terrorism, and threats"—to be officially recognized through this organization. How could Pakistan have succeeded in its plan if the Muslim countries had not been so openly prejudiced? As far as Pakistan is concerned, it may carry out any mischief or hatch any conspiracy to establish its claim to Kashmir. We are well aware of its intentions. What is amazing is that the Muslim countries are conniving with Pakistan in this conspiracy. Why do they allow the ICO to be used as an anti-Indian forum? The crux of the issue is not Pakistan but these Muslim countries. Although India has both individually and collectively tried to impress the truth of the matter upon each member of the ICO, it appears that its pleas are falling on deaf ears. Their stand clearly shows that in foreign circles—especially in the Arab countries—India's image is that of a nincompoop whose protests are of no consequence. As a matter of fact, India's style of diplomacy is far from practical. Although it has always raised its voice the loudest in support of Arab causes, India must now realize that world diplomacy still functions on the basis of power equilibrium. It must develop the guts to show its indignation to those who try to damage its interests. It ought to hammer the plain fact into the minds of the world's countries that if maintaining cordial relations with India is good for them, straining or ruining these ties could be equally harmful.

Commentary Accuses Pakistan of Manipulating ICO

BK1309141794 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Commentary by Samuel Ved]

[Text] An organization takes long years of honest efforts to build up its credibility, but just one wrong step can demolish it in the twinkling of an eye. Many expectations have been attached with the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] since its inception in 1969. Over the years, it gained the confidence not only of the Muslim world, but also of others—including India—who persistently stood by Muslim countries in struggles and tribulations. There were times when some Muslim countries themselves sided with those forces who worked against the larger interests of the Muslim ummah [community], but India opposed these forces and did not care against the consequent punishment. Hence the reference is to Suez Canal crisis in 1956, when Pakistan sided with those Western powers who wanted to stifle Egypt's economic existence and present it to the world as a horrible example of a nonconforming Muslim country. Of course, then the leadership of the Muslim world was in the hands of those who appreciated India's role and supported it in whatever manner.

However, in the 1980's, when the United States was trying to project Pakistan as a leader of the Muslim world in the wake of the Afghan crisis, Pakistan began rehabilitating itself in the eyes of the Muslim countries. Its influence on them increased thanks to the American manipulations. But this influence had a debilitating influence on the ICO, which began scoring failures after failures in its attempts to resolve problems within the Muslim countries. Iran-Iraq war was one of them. Here Pakistan was given a leading role in the ICO mediation between the two warring countries. General Ziaul Haq,

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who was performing the role on behalf of the ICO, failed miserably, and his failure was credited to the account of the ICO. And what Pakistan's so-called peace efforts have brought about in Afghanistan is before everybody. In the last Gulf war, the ICO had hectic meetings to bring about peace between Iraq and Kuwait, but ultimately it had to be a helpless witness till what followed. There are many other examples of such failures. In fact, there was one example [as heard] of its success after it came under the influence of Pakistan.

As said earlier, credibility is built with honest efforts and not with vested motives. Old timers in the Muslim world will agree that Pakistan's foreign policy moves on two motive (?powers). One, its well-camouflaged intention to promote the objectives of some other powers like the United States in the past; and its own territorial ambitions vis-a-vis India. Till the recent years, the ICO took care that Pakistan did not exploit the organization for their hidden motives. Since 1990, the ICO has gradually allowed Pakistan to influence it in vital matters such as traditional good relations with India. The ICO countries who individually are very keen to establish close economic and political relations with India remember that. As member of the United States-supported defense pacts in the 1950's and 1960's, Pakistan's sole obsession was India, (?owing) to the objectives of these pacts were to contain communism. [sentence as heard] After the end of these pacts, Pakistan's new propaganda line against India is that it is anti-Muslim. The idea is to arouse Muslim passions against India and then create the world support for its ambitions on Kashmir.

At the inauguration of the ICO foreign ministers meeting in Islamabad recently, Ms. Benazir Bhutto made it very clear that Pakistan's case in Kashmir is that it must come to its fold. After the three-day meeting, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali told newsmen that his country had been successful in getting the ICO to send invitations to Kashmiri leaders in India and set a contact group at the United Nations. By making his boast, Mr. Ali was in fact letting the cat out of the bag; that is, who actually runs the ICO. It was clear that issues like Bosnia were just a camouflage to hide the real Pakistani intentions in calling the meeting at Islamabad. What is surprising is that the mature leaders of the ICO failed to see through the Pakistani game, or if they do, they refused to take a stand worthy of the status of the conference in the world.

Going back to the question of credibility, it is this moral weakness which has been harming the image of the ICO. The members presented an ugly example of double standards. Outside the ICO they claim to be very close to India, but within the ICO they are [words indistinct] into hostility toward India. There is another question of morality: Does the ICO believe in the ultimate truth or the lie of a Muslim country against a non-Muslim country?

Iran

President Discusses Participation at ICPD

LD1309113194 Tehran IRNA English 1052 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday [13 September] stressed that participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Population and Development Conference in Cairo, Egypt, was a "calculated measure" to outline Iran's reasonable viewpoints.

The president made the remark while addressing a large gathering of Friday prayer leaders from throughout the country who are here for their 10th nationwide seminar opened Monday.

"In a world where we are accused of being extremist and illogical, the stance adopted at the conference by an Iranian clergyman would attract the attention of all," added the president.

Rafsanjani referred to the issue of cultural assault and stated that resort to force in cultural issues would be counterproductive. Rather, he stressed, leading people, the youth in particular, towards genuine Islamic teachings would insure the Islamic system forever. The president noted that the clergy, given their close association with the people, could well acquaint them with Islamic issues.

Underlining the strategic position of Iran both at regional and international levels, the president noted that such a position should not be affected by an unreasonable or reckless stance.

In some international gatherings many issues would be figured out for many countries of the world, President Rafsanjani said and stressed Iran's failure in having an active presence in such meetings would be to its disadvantage.

However, the president reiterated that safeguarding Islam and aspirations of the Islamic revolution under the present status quo is one of the prime objectives of the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The three-day conference will end its work tomorrow.

Diplomat on Relations With Malaysia

NC1309131094 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 3 Sep 94 pp 1, 9

["Exclusive" interview with Malaysian Ambassador in Iran Adnan Ben Osman by unidentified JAHAN-E ESLAM correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] Malaysia is one of the Southeast Asian countries of special importance and is in

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a favorable position as regards investment and technology. In the opinion of Your Excellency, to what extent can the Malaysian experience be important for the Islamic countries?

[Osman] The Malaysian experience can be implemented in Iran or other Islamic countries. However, there are certain factors that merit consideration. Our country gained independence in 1957 and ever since that date we have been prosperous. There are also climatic conditions in Malaysia which are extremely important for its agriculture but countries such as Iran or its neighbors do not have such conditions. That is why the British did not want to leave. [passage omitted]

The most important factor for Malaysia's development is the political stability, which attracts investors. We also have regional stability and we do not have any problems with our neighbors. These are the reasons for the progress in our country's development. [passage omitted]

We also have certain laws in our country that are very just and in practice prevent jeopardizing workers' rights. This in itself serves to motivate the workers and protects their interests.

All our industries such as water, power, telephones, airlines and so on have been delegated to the private sector. This resulted in greater profits for the government and the officials.

We have been successful but it took us 35 years. This success demands manpower with a conscience. Other factors are time and faith and I hope that all the Third World countries will be similarly endowed.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Mr. Ambassador, as you said, when the British were in your country, you also benefited. Did the British rule affect your culture as well?

[Osman] In general, the domination of one country by another is not desirable. We do not like the British but they had nothing to do with our religion or culture and were only interested in making money. They also created a lot of problems for us. For example, they permitted free immigration and as a result many groups came to our country. However, with God's blessings we managed to organize them after independence.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] During the visit of Mr. Mahathir Mohamed to Central Asia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, some trade accords were signed. Have there been any special developments since? What is the extent of Iran-Malaysian trade relations?

[Osman] For two reasons, the Malaysian Government is immensely interested in forging relations with Iran and the Central Asian countries. First, both the countries are developing and on principle, the developed Western countries seek to harm those countries in which they have no interests.

Second, we share common values such as religion, culture, customs, and rituals. It is for these reasons that we attach importance to countries such as Iran. We encourage the private sector to forge trade relations with Iran. However, our private sector is not very familiar with Iran and should be given a special briefing. In general, our relations are expanding but they have not flourished much.

Our private sector has presented some useful proposals (such as the projects for gas, railroads, construction of highways). Iran is, in our opinion, a bridge that links us to the Central Asian countries.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What is your government's attitude toward the al-Arqaam [a renegade sect] group and what are its activities in your country?

[Osman] In mid-1980 there were some changes in the management of the al-Arqaam group and they changed their path. The conduct of the new management was such that the Malaysian Government was forced to tackle them. The al-Arqaam managers say that they are His Holiness Mehdi [the Hidden Imam] (may God expedite his noble advent). They also state that since Islam has permitted polygamy, they abuse this concept and change their spouses frequently. Our government opposes this.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] The U.S. aircraft carrier U.S.S. Vincennes has docked at a Malaysian port. In view of the fact that world public opinion, and in particular Iran, believe that this is a terrorist vessel, why has the Malaysian Government permitted it to enter its waters?

[Osman] I have not heard anything in this regard but it is possible that it is passing through the area en route to the China Sea. The passage through the Malacca Straits is part of the international waterway and therefore we have to permit such passage.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Mahathir Mohamed proposed a Southeast Asian market which was opposed by the United States. Could you please tell us what the reason was for this objection?

[Osman] This is a plan known as the ADEC [acronym in English—expansion unknown] which includes Malaysia, the PRC, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and the ASEAN countries. Since the Europeans and even North America (NAFTA) are strengthening such organizations, we are also considering the creation and expansion of similar organizations. Accordingly it is natural that there should be a reaction. We proposed that it should have a consultative aspect and we should have multilateral relations. However, they did not quite understand this and put a lot of pressure on Korea and Japan.

It is clear that the economy would grow very quickly and it is possible that this would harm the West's interests. It is obvious that the United States would oppose this. The United States suggested that we should cooperate with the A.P.D.C. [acronym in English—expansion unknown]

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that is, with the countries of Australia, New Zealand, and countries in Oceania. Therefore, they are trying to steer us in this direction.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Apparently, a group in Malaysia is in favor of the normalization of relations with the Zionist regime. Do you endorse this and if so, could you elaborate?

[Osman] They do not belong to a particular group. There are some who do make such remarks and say that Malaysia's relations with Israel should change. We are opposed to apartheid and Zionism. The world is in a state of flux (as in South Africa). In view of the changes that have taken place in the Middle East, there are some persons who say that it is time that we forged relations with Israel. However, until we are assured of the goodwill by the Zionist regime we will not establish relations. The government will wait until the Palestinians decide. If the Palestinians are satisfied and express their satisfaction then our government will forge relations with the Zionist regime.

Yitzhaq Rabin is very keen to establish relations with Malaysia and as I have said, there will be no relations until there is a display of goodwill. [passage omitted].

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Are there groups opposed to the government in Malaysia?

[Osman] Our history is full of cases of opposition to the government, whether communists or nationalists. After our independence in 1957, the communists were banned. Whenever we have elections every four or five years, the various group begin their campaigns. However, the UMNO [acronym in English—United Malays National Organization] (the ruling party) is always successful. There are four or five opposition groups, the most well-known being the leftist democratic party, which operates freely.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Recently a seminar was held in Tehran on the future outlook for Bosnia-Herzegovina. Since Malaysia also participated in the conference, how does Your Excellency appraise the outcome and convocations of the conference?

[Osman] This seminar naturally had favorable results. It is possible that it did not have any effect but it was not totally ineffective. Convening such seminars does have an effect on the international organizations and the United Nations, which is blocking resolution of the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue.

There are some differences among the Islamic countries regarding the Bosnian issue. Such seminars eliminate these differences and I personally appreciate Iran's actions in this regard.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What is your opinion on the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo, which includes issues such as relaxing restrictions on homosexuality, abortion etc?

[Osman] We will certainly oppose such resolutions or any clauses that desecrate Islamic sanctities. We will concur in issues pertaining to the welfare of women and children.

We reject such issues because we are Muslims but there are some East Asian countries with a different culture and who are not Muslims. They also reject such issues. We will therefore participate in the conference as it is the obligation of those who oppose such issues to participate and rise united against anti-Islamic norms.

Russian Official Views Tehran Regional Role

LD1009203694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian deputy foreign minister met our country's deputy foreign minister Mahmud Va'ezi in Tehran Saturday [10 September].

In this meeting the Russian official viewed the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region, specially in solving the Tajik crisis and said: Moscow believes Iranian efforts in this field are useful and respectable.

Va'ezi said that we wish for a peaceful settlement of the regional crisis as long as they do not damage Iranian interests and national security.

Editorial Disputes Reasons for Ties With U.S.

NC0909150194 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 1 Sep 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Words of a Veteran Politician!!"]

[Text] In an article based on its analyses and deductions, the AL-MAJALLAH periodical published in London has appraised Iran-U.S. relations. The pretext used by this article is the letter (according to this periodical) written by the Tehran Majles deputy Raja'i-Khorasani to Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the revolution. The magazine states: "Raja'i-Khorasani, a veteran politician (!!) of Iran has asked the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i to normalize relations between Iran and the United States within the next few years in order to prevent any problems cropping up."

Citing the letter by this veteran politician, AL-MAJALLAH writes: After a detailed preface regarding the new world order, Raja'i-Khorasani comments on the position of Iran in the region, and says: "In order to move along with the new world order, we have three options before us: 1. Escape from reality. 2. Succumbing to the new world order. 3. A positive approach toward the new world order.

This periodical then continues to cite Raja'i-Khorasani:

"The United States can rescue Iraq from its misfortune but is not ready to change Iraq's current situation as it does not trust any replacement of Saddam. Of course, if

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the United States were to reach an agreement with Iran on the future of Iraq, it would not have any qualms about Saddam's downfall."

AL-MAJALLAH cites the writer of this "alleged" letter as saying that the security of the Persian Gulf is a strategic issue and has claimed that Iran should have talks with the United States on this issue. In this letter, reference has been made to the Afghanistan problem, the return of Iran's blocked assets, and Resolution 598. However, there are certain points regarding this letter and the claims of the AL-MAJALLAH article:

1. For many years, the various discussion circles have talked of the need for relations with the United States on the basis of a series of ostensibly politico-economic issues of the region, and on numerous occasions, controversy or reports are disseminated on this subject. We do not know about the authenticity of this letter and we do not wish to discuss anything about the writer based on this alleged letter even though there is agreement on this issue in the past and Raja'i-Khorasani has commented on it.

2. Regarding the issues propounded in this report, one may assert that the existing realities do not in any way indicate any need for relations with the United States. The United States does not have a firm position on the international level and despite its claims, this country has not been able to resolve its domestic problems. It has not been able to find a solution to the Middle East impasse and its relations with Japan, France and Germany are characterized by tension and crises.

The United States has not yet been able to resolve its problems with Cuba and Haiti and therefore the notion that the United States is endowed with exceptional international prowess and power, as in the decades of the Cold War, is an unrealistic one. Accordingly, facts indicate that the United States has now been transformed into an ordinary power in the international sphere.

3. The important contention is that basically, the theory of the new world order has become obsolete and has been relegated to the trash heap of history. The new world order propounded by Bush was a tactical measure for creating a new climate in order to facilitate U.S. moves in the aftermath of the war. At present all the pillars of this theory face problems and no one, even in the United States, believes in it.

4. Iran's policy with regard to Iraq is based on an Islamic principle as well as in non-intervention in the affairs of others. If the United States had considered it necessary and was able to, it would have brought its favored government to power in Iraq. Contrary to the opinion stated in the letter, Saddam is more useful to the United States in the current circumstances. Any changes in the status quo would be tantamount to a decrease in the power and influence of the United States. In accordance with the principles of its foreign policy, Iran will never interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and will never bargain or negotiate on the destiny of a Muslim country with any country, including the United States.

4. [number as published] As regards the security of the Persian Gulf, Iran's policy is to keep a distance from the foreign powers from the region and to create stability and security in the region. Thus, talks with the United States would be a contravention of the policy of the Islamic system.

5. As regards the other points mentioned in the aforementioned letter, the same rhetoric holds good and the deduction from these views implies:

A. The negation of the true slogans of the revolution and ignoring the essence of the policy of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

B. Official recognition and endorsement of U.S. colonial intervention and power.

C. A return to the period prior to the revolution and ultimately the destruction of the revolution. There is no doubt that that sort of viewpoint, if it were true, would require serious thought.

Even though we believe that the foreign media are trying to create a problem, we should not doubt that such thinking and perceptions do exist among a small number of those who consider themselves politicians and who propound them from time to time in order to attain their objectives.

What is amazing is that they even insist on their stances and their attitude is unprincipled and inconsistent. Even though we are inclined to believe that these—according to AL-MAJALLAH, valiant veteran—politicians should have the audacity to make such remarks, they should also have the courage to listen to the voice of the revolution, so that it becomes clear and evident to the people what is beneficial and in the interest of the system and the revolution.

Newspaper Responds to U.S. Charges on Weapons

LD1009104094 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—A morning English-language daily in its editorial Saturday [10 September] referred to the U.S. propaganda against Iran and said that such a ploy aimed at preventing other countries from expanding their relations with the Islamic Republic.

"Persian Gulf countries must realize that the main threat in this region is the very presence of the United States. This presence will become more extensive because there are hidden political, economic, and military agendas," wrote 'TEHRAN TIMES'.

The editorial was referring to the recent remarks made by the U.S. Navy commander, Douglas Katz, in which

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he had alleged that Iran was involved in producing offensive and defensive weapons.

The United States, noted the daily, has adopted a policy of containment of Iran, one aim of which is the "ostracization" of the Islamic Republic.

The paper pointed to the U.S. concern over the expansion of economic and military cooperation between Iran and countries beyond the Persian Gulf and added that after the demise of the Soviet Union, the U.S. can no longer use Soviet aggression as an excuse, rather, it has to use the Islamic Republic as "bete noire."

The U.S. would try to use a "four-pronged program" in its propaganda against Iran: accusing Iran of complicity in terrorist acts in the remotest corners of the world, violating human rights, opposing the so-called peace process in the Middle East, and developing nuclear weapons, wrote the article.

It said that the U.S. efforts to maintain its traditional sphere of influence in the region have ended in failure because the Islamic Republic of Iran has, independently, and oblivious to American priorities, "defined a new policy based on its own national security objectives."

Reiterating that Iran has repeatedly proved it is genuinely interested in peace and security in the region the daily concluded by saying, "but if there is any threat to its national interests, the nation will respond decisively within the framework of a legitimate defense."

Commentary Rejects Idea To Resume Ties With Egypt

NC0909155194 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Sep 94 p 14

[Unattributed commentary: "Forging Relations With Egypt Is Treachery"]

[Text] In response to a question by a correspondent on how he views the future of Iran-Egypt relations during his interview with IRNA, the Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Majles Hasan Rowhani said: "It is possible that in the future, more conducive conditions may be created for the establishment of relations between the two countries."

The deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles has not elaborated further on the "conditions" or regarding his views on Egypt. The fact is that the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the Cairo regime were severed due to its treachery, as it compromised with the despotic Zionists. If there are to be suitable conditions for the resumption of relations, they will have to be created in Egypt. This means that the current regime should distance itself from Camp David or popular elections should be held in Egypt so that a government that emerges from the will of the Muslim Egyptian people assumes power, a government that deeply believes in the abomination and despicable nature of Zionism.

Relations between Iran and Egypt were severed on the explicit instructions of his eminence, the imam, and as long as the contemptible [Camp David] accord remains in effect and the performance of the [pro-] Israeli regime ruling Egypt remains in harmony and in unison with the wishes of the Zionists, there will be no chance of a relationship with the government of that country.

It is regrettable that today, the Egyptian regime is displaying more servility and closeness to the usurpist Jerusalem regime than ever before. Not a day goes by without reports of the decimation of Muslim revolutionaries and without the Cairo regime hatching a plot for the suppression of the Islamic movement in that country.

In all the humiliating talks among the heads or representative delegations of the Arab regimes with the Zionists, Cairo has played the role of a motivator and an intermediary, and has enthusiastically acted as the broker of Zionism on the political chess board of the Middle East.

The Egyptian regime has not relinquished its mischief-mongering and fomenting of sedition against Iran. It has actively participated in all kinds of adventurism and whipping up of a hostile atmosphere against it in the region. Nowadays, it is preparing to host an illicit conference opposed to religion and humanity under the name of the International Conference on Population and Development. All this is an extension of the adherence of the Egyptians to the bondage and the shameful commitments pledged in the Camp David Accord.

In such circumstances, it is quite obvious that there is no scope for the establishment of relations between such a regime and the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran on any pretext whatsoever.

Final Stage of Kheybar-73 Military Exercise Under Way

LD1409123394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The final stage of the joint amphibious Kheybar-73 exercise is continuing this morning in the waters of the Persian Gulf with forces from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran taking part.

[Correspondent] With the complete military formation of warships, rocket-launching frigates, fast boats, and other vessels taking part in the joint amphibious Kheybar-73 exercise for the capture of the bases of the hypothetical enemy, the final stage of this exercise started this morning in the clear, blue waters of the Persian Gulf.

The sea lions of the naval forces of the IRGC and the navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which during the past three stages successfully carried out their predetermined objectives carefully, seriously and with complete

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discipline, in this stage of the exercise attacked the ground positions of the hypothetical enemy with the support of the high-flying eagles of the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this part of the amphibious Kheybar-73 exercise, friendly forces also based themselves in the captured positions, carried out defensive operations, fortified air defense positions against the aircraft of the imaginary enemy, and carried put special operations to neutralize enemy chemical attacks.

Pakistan

Sharif Says Army, ISI Plotted To Sell Heroin

BK1309124394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Sep 94 pp 1, 12

[Text] Karachi: Pakistan's army chief and the head of its intelligence agency proposed a detailed "blueprint" for selling heroin to pay for the country's covert military operations in early 1991, according to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

In an interview Sharif claimed that three months after his election as prime minister in November 1990, Gen Aslam Beg, then army chief of staff, and Gen Asad Durrani, the head of the military's Inter-Services Intelligence Bureau (ISI), told him the armed forces needed more money for covert foreign operations and wanted to raise it throuigh large-scale drug deals.

"General Durrani told me, 'We have a blueprint ready for your approval," [quotation marks as received] said Sharif, who lost to Benazir Bhutto in elections last October and is now leader of the opposition in parliament.

"I was totally flabbergasted," Sharif said, adding that he called Beg a few days later to order the army officially not to launch the drug trafficking plan.

Beg, who retired in August 1991, denied Sharif's allegation, saying: We have never been so irresponsible at any stage. Our politicians, when they're not in office and in the opposition, they say so many things. There's just no truth to it."

Durrani, now Pakistan's ambassador to Germany, said: "This is a preposterous thing for former prime minister to say. I know nothing about it. We never ever talked on this subject at all."

Brig Gen SMA Iqbal, a spokesman for the armed forces, said: "It's inconceivable and highly derogatory; such a thing could not happen."

The interview with Sharif, conducted at his home in Lahore in May, was part of a broad investigation into narcotics trafficking in Pakistan. It marked the first time a senior Pakistani official has publicly accused the country's military of having contingency plan to pay for covert operations through drug smuggling.

Officials with the US State Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration said that they have no evidence that Pakistan's military is or ever has been involved in drug traficking. But US and other officials have often complained about the country's weak efforts to curtail the spread of guns, money laundering, official corruption and other elements of the deeprooted drug culture in Pakistan, which along with Afghanistan and Iran lies along the so-called Golden Crescent, one of the world's biggest drug-producing regions.

In a scathing report two years ago, a consultant hired by the CIA warned that drug corruption had permeated virtually all segments of Pakistani society and that drug kingpins were closely connected to the country's key institutions of power including the president and military intelligence agencies.

About 70 tons of heroin is produced annually in Pakistan, a third of which is smuggled abroad, mostly to the West, according to the State Department's 1994 report on international drug trafficking. About 20 per cent of all heroin consumed in the United States comes from Pakistan and its northern neighbour, Afghanistan, the second largest opium producer in the world after Burma. The United Nations says that as much as 80 per cent of the heroin in Europe comes from the region.

It has been rumored for years that Pakistan's military has been involved in the drug trade. Pakistan's army, and particularly its intelligence agency—the equivalent of the CIA—is immensely powerful and is known for pursuing its own agenda.

Over the years, civilian political leaders have accused the military—which has run Pakistan for more than half its 47 years of independence—of developing the country's nuclear technology and arming insurgents in India and other countries without their knowledge or approval and sometimes in direct violation of civilian orders. Historically, the army's chief of staff has seen the most powerful person in the country.

According to military sources, the intelligence agency has been pinched for funds since the war in Afghanistan ended in 1989 and foreign governments—chiefly the United States—stopped funneling money and arms through the ISI to Afghan mujaheddin guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Without the foreign funds, the sources said, it has been difficult for the agency to continue the same level of operations in other areas, including aiding militants fighting Indian troops across the border in Kashmir. Such operations are increasingly being financed through money raised by such private organisations as the Jamiat-i-Islami, a leading fundamentalist political party.

A Western diplomat, who was based in Islamabad at the time of the purported meeting and who had occasional dealings with Beg and Durrani, said: "It's not inconceivable that they could come up with a plan like this."

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"There were constant rumors that ISI was involved in rogue drug operation with the Afghans—not so much for ISI funding, but to help the Afghans raise money for their operations," the diplomat said.

In the interview, Sharif claimed that the meeting between him and the generals occurred at the prime minister's official residence in Islamabad after Beg called one morning and asked to brief him personally on a sensitive matter.

Both Beg and Durani insisted that Pakistan's name would not be cited at any place because the whole operation would be carried out by trustworthy third parties, Sharif said. "Durrani then went on to list a series of covert military operations in desperate need of money."

Sharif, in the interview, would not discuss operational details of the proposal and refused to disclose what covert plans the intelligence agency wanted to fund with the drug money.

Sharif said he had "no sources" to verify that the ISI had obeyed his orders to abandon the plan that he assumed the agency had complied.

"I told them categorically not to initiate any such operation, and a few days later I called Beg again to tell that I have disapproved the ISI plan to back heroin smuggling."

Embittered that his political enemies cut short his term as prime minister last year and helped engineer the return of Bhutto, Sharif has gone on an intense political offensive to destabilise her 10 month-old government. He claimed recently that Pakistan has a nuclear bomb and said he made the information public to prevent Bhutto from dismantling the program under pressure from the West. The government has denied possessing nuclear bomb but repeated previous statements that it has the ability to build one.

Calling Sharif a "loose cannon", a second Western diplomatic source said, "I'd have hard time believing" his allegations about the military's drug trafficking proposal. The official suggested that Sharif's disclosure might be designed to keep Bhutto and Pakistan-India relations off balance. "If anything should bring these two countries together it is their common war against the drug problem, but this seems to fly in the face of that," he said.

'Strongly Refuted' by Military

BK1309163594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Military sources have strongly refuted allegations made by opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif that some military personnel made a proposal to sell narcotics to meet the expenses of covert military operations. APP reports that a military spokesman in Islamabad strongly rejected the allegations and termed them insulting and baseless. In an interview published in THE WASHINGTON POST, the opposition leader is reported to have alleged that a former chief of the Army and the chief of the Inter Service Intelligence presented him with a detailed blueprint for selling heroin.

The president of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal has also expressed a strong reaction to Nawaz Sharif's interview with THE WASHINGTON POST. Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan said that given the present political situation, when we have heard the statement about the processing [preceding word in English] of nuclear weapons in Pakistan, we are not at all surprised by this interview.

Federal Information Minister Khaled Ahmad Kharal has said that the opposition leader's recent allegations against former armed forces personnel will impair the dignity and honor of those who are defending the country. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said that after his failure on all fronts the opposition leader has begun a campaign to malign the country. He said that there are certain motives behind publishing the opposition leader's interview in September when he gave the interview in May. He cannot grab power by launching the Train March; he will have to wait for the general elections after the present government completes its constitutional term.

Commenting on the interview, Commerce Minister Chaudhary Ahmad Mukhtar said it might damage the country's interests and create difficulties. He said that anti-Pakistan forces might use the opposition leader's exaggerated remarks as a weapon against Pakistan.

Expressing his strong reaction to the opposition leader's interview in THE WASHINGTON POST, Ghulam Akbar Lasi, minister of state for labor and manpower, said it has affected national institutions and interests.

Eminent religious scholar Maulana Ehteramul Haq criticized Nawaz Sharif for accusing the Pakistani Army of alleged narcotics trafficking. He told APP in Karachi that the opposition leader's statement is extremely irresponsible and might dent the reputation of the country's most important institution.

In a press statement in Lahore, Senator Chaudhary Etejaz Ahsan described Nawaz Sharif's reported interview as imprudent. He said that it is aimed at maligning Pakistan's defense forces, which could severely affect national interests.

A senior official of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board in Islamabad termed the opposition leader's interview irresponsible and said that government policy on narcotics trafficking is very clear—it has taken stern steps against narcotics smuggling.

PPI reports that Moshahed Hussain, information secretary of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group [PML-N], told reporters on a train that the interview attributed to PML-N President Mohammad Nawaz Sharif by THE WASHINGTON POST is totally fabricated, because he

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never gave any interview to (John Anderson) or Kamran Khan in May or any other time.

Allegations Reportedly Analyzed

BK1409110494 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 13: Both the government agencies as well as the army authorities are reported to have analysed in depth the implications of the Opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif's interview in which he alleged involvement of the armed forces in drug trafficking.

Sources close to GHQ claim GHQ had taken a very serious view of the well-orchestrated campaign and disciplined institution of the country.

Asked to comment, the army sources said cuttings of the news report have been submitted to the top authorities and "we are waiting the official reaction of the army authorities". They however, admitted that there appears to be a sinister motive behind it.

Sources said after getting consent of the concerned authorities, "we would certainly like to investigate the whole matter".

The government circles were, however, seeing more to it than just a political statement. The responsible quarters in the government maintain that Nawaz Sharif was issuing these statements at the behest of the foreign powers to protect his black money abroad.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister (Retd) Naseerullah Babar while commenting on the statement made by Nawaz Sharif implicating two retired Army Generals and the Armed Forced in narcotics trafficking termed it as highly irresponsible act on the part of the Leader of the Opposition and said that Nawaz had tried to please Pakistan's enemies by defaming two vital institutes.

He asked the Leader of the Opposition to come out with his own clarification regarding the aforementioned report since it was a highly sensitive matter, directly related with the defence of the country.

Answering another question the Interior Minister said that the government was examining the statement of the Leader of the Opposition and a decision pertaining to the registration of the case on account of the damaging statement would be made after studying all its aspects.

He said that Nawaz had established through his statement that he totally lacked political morality. Nawaz has proved beyond doubt that he is a misfit in politics.

Responding to another question, Babar said that the government had no plan to arrest Nawaz Sharif.

Meanwhile the Interior Ministry spokesman said that General Aslam Beg and Lt Gen Asad Durani have already denied that they had ever talked to Nawaz Sharif or any other person about such a plan. He said that the army and ISI indeed played a big role in curtailing the smuggling of narcotics. He said, it was the combined efforts of ANTF and ISI that commendable success has been achieved in this field.

Efforts are made to destroy the poppy crop before it can mature to produce opium. Some 1238 acres in 1988/89, 800 acres in 1989-90, 1100 acres in 1990-91 and 23000 acres in 1991-92 of poppy crops were destroyed throughout Pakistan. More vigorous efforts were taken during 1992-93 and poppy cultivation.

Meanwhile, a high official of Pakistan Narcotics Control Board Tuesday [13 September] expressed surprise over Nawaz Sharif's press interview maligning the Pakistan Army.

He termed the allegations about the military's drug smuggling "proposal" to meet covert military operations as "irresponsible and negative."

He said government's stand on drug trafficking is very clear and has taken strict measures against drug smuggling.

Interior Ministry Condemns Remarks

BK1409062794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] An Interior Ministry spokesman in a statement in Islamabad has said that the interview of the leader of the opposition with the WASHINGTON POST has caused deep concern and resentment among all sane people in the society. He said even Pakistan's worst enemies cannot concoct such a lie. The spokesman pointed out that the Pakistani Army and the Inter-Service Intelligence have rendered valuable services toward checking the narcotics menace.

Punjab Chief Minister Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo has said that the recent statement of the leader of the opposition regarding heroin smuggling has hurt national interests. He was addressing a news conference in Lahore yesterday. About the opposition's train march, the chief minister said it was a total failure.

Professor Ghafoor Ahmad, the deputy chief of Jamaat-i-Islami, has criticized Mohammad Nawaz Sharif for involving the sensitive institutions in drug smuggling. Talking to APP in Karachi, he said the statement by the opposition leader will harm the interests of the country.

Senator Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, a leader of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam-Fazlur Rahman group, has also criticized the remarks of the opposition leader, saying that these were against national interests. Talking to APP in Islamabad, he said it is highly unfortunate that a deliberate attempt was being made to damage the democratic and defense institutions of the country.

Sharif Denies Newspaper Report on Narcotics

BK1409104994 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif denied Tuesday [13 September] a report by the Washington Post claiming military officials suggested selling

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heroin to raise money for its covert operations. Sharif said the story, which appeared in Monday's editions of the Post, is a fabrication timed to damage him politically.

The interview never took place in May (as the Post said), before or after, said Sharif while speaking to reporters at the Rawalpindi Railway station. The interview has been concocted to pitch the military against me, he added.

In Washington, an editor at the Washington Post rebutted Sharif's denials and said the interview was conducted by its special correspondent for Pakistan, Kamran Khan, at Sharif's home in Lahore in May.

We stand by the story, said Jackson Diehl, the Post's assistant managing editor for foreign news. After hearing the allegations, we spent several months investigating and checking it before publishing the story, Diehl said in explaining the five-month delay between the interview and publication.

The article says Gen Aslam Beg and Gen Asad Durrani who headed military intelligence, met Sharif at the prime ministers official residence in Islamabad in early 1991 and proposed selling heroin to finance the country's covert military operations.

Both Beg and Durrani, who have retired from the army, denied the story and said they never made such a proposal to Sharif.

A spokesman at the US embassy said the US has never suggested, explicitly or implicitly, that the military is involved in drug trafficking.

The US State Department said this year in its annual report on worldwide narcotics trafficking that the Pakistani government does not vigorously enforce existing anti-corruption legislation.

But the report noted that no senior Pakistani official had ever been indicated for narcotics-related corruption, and the government has successfully blocked reputed drug king-pins from running for the National Assembly.

We will pursue this matter until we are proved innocent, said a spokesman for Sharif's Muslim League, we will take legal action against the Post if we have to.

Mushahid Hussain, the party information secretary, said he would write to Katharine Gralum, chairman of the Washington Post, company and the papers ombudsman to inquire into the matter and determine why a totally concocted story has been published in the paper.

He said Sharif gave no such interview to John Ward Anderson or Kamran Khan, the two Post reporters who wrote the story, in May, before or later.

Mushahid said the fabrication was implicit and evident in the story as this concocted story is supposed to have taken place in May and comes in to print five months later, in September.

Article Surveys Market for Light Weapons

BK1309120194 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Sep 94 p 1,6

[Article by Imran Munir: "A volcano of light arms]

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has become a country with the largest per capita guns in the world, where a mine stick can be obtained for three rupees and a rocket and grenade costs just 150 rupees each. Following this situation, Pakistan is fast becoming another Colombia, a volcano which can erupt without warning.

The Nation conducted study based on interviews and various research reports to find out the massive light arms proliferation in the country, its route and distribution.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 was the most significant development which flooded the country with light arms. Due to the Soviet invasion followed by the massive counter-strategy by the US intelligence agencies to wage war against the Kremlin's 'evil empire,' Pakistan became the conduit for a massive military assistance programme. The US intelligence services opened accounts in Switzerland and Saudi Arabia and the US government directed their contribution to launch the CIA's biggest operation after the Vietnam war.

Initially, massive number of arms - primarily the Type 56 Chinese assault rifles - were purchased from the Chinese government. A large number of Technovar anti-personnel mines, originally produced in Italy, were shipped via Egypt and Oman to Karachi. The flood of Chinese-made AK47 into the region was followed by small arms and artillery from several sources. For example, the CIA purchased 60,000 assault rifles, 8,000 light machine guns and over 100 million rounds of ammunition from Turkey, 50 Swiss Oerlikon anti-aircraft guns were provided despite the fact that the Mujahideen lacked basic training for the gun, costing $50 a round and capable of expending 1,000 rounds a minute. [sentence as published]

Mortars were purchased from Egypt, Blowpipe surface to air missiles from Britain, captured Soviet weapons from Israel, one lakh [100,000] 303 rifles were purchased from India. Furthermore, there were 30 million rounds from the POF. During 1983 10,000 tons of weapons were transferred to Afghanistan via Pakistan, rising to 65,000 tons in 1987.

When the sophisticated system like stinger entered the pipe line the Americans tried to introduce strict accountability but Robert Oakley, then member of the Policy Planning Staff of the National Security Council, suggested a hands-off and non-interference policy because America had failed in Vietnam due to excessive interference.

Lack of a non-interference policy, arms pipeline to Mujahideen leaked persistently at 15 points where it had

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been loaded and off- loaded before reaching the Mujahideen commanders. The scale of the leakage could be judged from the fact that a former head of the ISI recently confessed in an interview to THE NEW YORK TIMES that the ISI still had access to three million Kalashnikovs, packed and greased.

Following this heavy leak, arms and ammunition became widely available from the mid-1980s onwards throughout the country. In [Northwest] Frontier province, where the government has little authority, as is evident in the open sale of drugs and liquor in Hayatabad, just outside Peshawar, the situation became alarming and beyond control. Landikotal, Dara Adamkhel and Miram Shah have acquired the status of the largest black market of arms and ammunition in the world.

The huge proliferation of weaponry in the NWFP and Balochistan in recent years has led to a chaotic situation. Small towns like Dara and Landikotal have been almost entirely given over to the selling of arms. Customers from all over the country visit these towns in search of unlicensed and illegal weapons.

There are four categories of weapons on sale in these bazars. First, the leaked weapons from arms pipeline-Chinese Type 56, Kalashnikovs from East Germany and Romania, submachine guns from Israel and Egypt, West German MP5 surface to air shoulder-fired missiles, Milan antitank missile system, Chinese Type 83 mine-clearing rockets, Egyptian and Chinese 122mm artillery rockets and electronic communication technology.

Second, the stock of the Soviet weapons captured during the war is considerable. These include Soviet and Eastern bloc Kalashnikovs AK47 and 74, AKSU-74 SMG version of AK74 or commonly known as Krinkov, RPGs [rocket-propelled grenade] rocket shooter, recoilless rifles and sniper weapons such as SVD Dragunov.

The third category is of locally made arms, most importantly copies of the AK47, Chinese model of AK47. In addition the Frontier Arms Company and G. Badil factory of Peshawar are producing models of Kalashnikovs variants, standard rifles, revolvers, pistols and .38 calibre Webley.

Fourth, the arms bazars are full of miscellaneous weapons coming from some mysterious routes including used copies of M-16A2, 9mm Calico carbine, banned by US for sale to Pakistan, the Winchester pump action, long and short-barrelled Uzi carbine, West German MP3 submachine gun (which was purchased by the Punjab Constabulary), Iranian and Saudi Arabian G-3, Smith and Wesson .386 and .38 special.

In these unique and open bazaars any kind of weapon can be purchased. The streets of these bazaars are full of buyers from all over the country to get unlicensed weapons. After payment has been received delivery can be made anywhere in Pakistan.

The popular nation that "where there are drugs there are guns" makes the NWFP region, which has over 150 heroin manufacturing factories, a centre for drug production. The drug and gun culture has enveloped the whole of Pakistan. Karachi, being the largest city of the country with a history of ethnic tension, has become the worst victim of small arms proliferation. Today, there is little difference between the prices of Dara and black markets of Karachi. In Karachi, one can easily get a Kalashnikov for Rs 12,000 as compared to Rs 11,000 in Dara.

Following this alarming situation and easy availability of deadly arms Pakistan has become a nation in the clutches of an arsenal which can explode at any time. In fact, the recent bloodshed and armed violence which shook Karachi and other parts of the country is a frightening example of what can happen at a national scale.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Leader Responds Positively to Talks Proposal

BK1409114694 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] chief Veluppillai Prabhakaran has responded positively to Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga Bandaranaike's letter sent on Friday [9 September] asking him to nominate his representative for the preliminary talks, official sources said yesterday. They said the reply came yesterday through the International Committee of the Red Cross—ICRC—who have sent the reply direct to the prime minister, as it was addressed to her. Prabhakaran's first such message was addressed to the defense secretary and was passed on to the prime minister through the deputy minister of defense, Anuruddha Ratwatte.

Official sources said Prabhakaran's message yesterday had also indicated the date for the preliminary talks, and the government is expected to decide its emissary today. The prime minister is expected to brief the cabinet today about Prabhakaran's reply. Jaffna GA [Government Agent] Manickavasagar is in Colombo waiting to accompany the government's [word indistinct] emissary to Jaffna for talks. He said that he had canceled his [word indistinct] at the request of the prime minister, who wanted him to assist in the preliminary talks.

The LTTE has said that they are prepared for unconditional talks with the government to solve the ethnic crisis. It is announced that they are ready for a cease-fire. LTTE leader Prabhakaran, in an interview with the BBC last night, said that they were prepared for negotiations in a peaceful atmosphere. They appreciated the goodwill gesture of the government in partially lifting the economic sanctions. Prabhakaran, in his interview Tamil

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Osai [Voice of Tamil], further said that the ordinary Sinhala people have expressed during last month's elections that they wanted peace and eschew violence. [sentence as heard] The LTTE leader said that they are not against the majority Sinhala community. However, some self-centered communal elements have created a false idea among the two communities and promoted conflict between them. He appealed to the Sinhala people to identify these antinational elements and reject them totally in order to reestablish peace in the country.

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